

# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**



**Vol. 54 No. 4**

**December 1984**

Published by the

**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

## CONTENTS

IOWA FEEDER SURVEY.....	91-101
NESTING CATTLE EGRETS AND LITTLE BLUE HERONS .....	101-103
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD .....	104-106
GENERAL NOTES .....	107-123
FIELD REPORTS .....	123
BOOK REVIEWS .....	124
CORRECTION .....	124

## OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Acting President — Carl Bendorf, 825 7th Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Secretary — Francis Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Treasurer — Hank Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, Iowa 50056

Editor — Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803

Librarian — Mrs. Beryl Layton, 1560 Linmar Drive, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

## Executive Council:

Dr. W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, Iowa 51653

Raymond Cummins, 814 S. Drake St., Centerville, Iowa 52544

Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa 50148

Marlys Huff, 310 S. 18th Ave., Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

Iowa Bird Line phone number — 319-622-3353

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:** \$12.00 a year on a calendar year basis, single copies \$3.00. Subscription to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are six classes as follows: Life Member, \$250.00, payable in four equal installments; Supporting Member, \$15.00 a year; Family Member, \$15.00 a year; Regular Member, \$12.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$6.00 a year.

## EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE

235 McCLELLAN BLVD.

DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

IOWA BIRD LIFE (ISSN 0021-0455) is published quarterly for \$12.00 per year, single copies \$3.00 by Ornithologists' Union, 235 McClelland Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803. Second-class postage paid at Davenport, Iowa. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, 235 McClelland Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803.

# The 1984 Iowa Feeder Survey

91

RICHARD J. HOLLIS  
3351 Lower West Branch Road  
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240

## INTRODUCTION

Our present knowledge of bird distribution is arrived at by a variety of different methods: Christmas Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, Breeding Bird Atlases and the field observations of numerous individuals. Mid-winter distribution is generally surveyed only by field observers.

This paper will discuss the 1984 Iowa Feeder Survey. The feeder survey is a rarely used method for compiling a large data base on winter distribution. I will demonstrate the efficacy of feeder surveys to provide useful information. A large number of people feed birds; a 1974 Massachusetts Audubon Society survey estimated that nearly half of the households in that state fed birds (cited by Kricher, 1981). This method can gather a large amount of information which is not generally available to the professional. In Iowa there are about 40 regular contributors to the Field Reports Section of *Iowa Bird Life* and the total membership of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in January 1984 was around 400. Over 1,800 individuals participated in this survey.

Previously, the Burtt (Burtt and Burtt, 1979 and 1980) have used volunteers to conduct feeder surveys for a number of years in central New York. Their surveys cover the entire winter feeding period. This study was conducted across the entire state of Iowa on a single weekend in late January.

Another application of this type of survey is to reach out to people who are not within the normal birding network. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union recruited 70+ new members (an increase of over 17%). This will increase the likelihood that they will report future sightings and also offer these individuals the opportunity of growth in birding skills. The parallels between the distributional patterns observed in this study and those reported by others is an indication of the reliability of this method.

## METHODS

**Survey forms:** One page forms were distributed to members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and 15 local bird clubs. Some stores that sell bird feed or bird books made forms available to their customers. Several newspaper announcements were made and at least one newspaper printed the form. An announcement was made on a statewide radio program. Forms were mailed to anyone who wrote to the State Nongame Biologist. People were requested to duplicate the form and pass it to friends.

The first part of the form requested the following information: Name, address, type of food and number of feeders, when the feeder was first filled during the current feeding season, and if water was provided.

The second half of the form was a listing of 30 species and 1 race that might be expected to occur at feeders in Iowa. Seven blanks were provided for species not listed. For each species, observers were directed to list the highest number of individuals that were seen "together at any one time." The directions went on to state that "if additional individuals of the species could be identified by unusual markings, sex, race, etc. record the total." To my knowledge the only species in which the number recorded was increased to any significant extent under that rule were N. Cardinals, Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks. Feeder observations were to be recorded only from the weekend of January 28 & 29, 1984.

Forms were distributed in late December and early January and observers were directed to return them by February 15.

**Analysis:** I examined every form and made the following corrections: (a.) if the number of individual birds was listed as  $n+$ ,  $n+10\%$  was used, (b.) if the number of individual birds was listed as  $n-m$  the median number was used. Two corrections were made for species written in as species not listed. All 'ladder-backed woodpeckers' were listed as Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and all the 'blackbirds' as Common Grackles. This was done because I believe that the former are the names which are commonly used in Iowa for these species. The number of these corrections was small.

Approximately one hundred forms were discarded because the observations were made outside of the survey period or the forms were without names or addresses.

Some forms were used for some species but not others. Some people chose not to count European Starlings or House Sparrows (or gave nonquantifiable answers such as "umpteen" or "too many"). In these cases as well as cases where people did not identify sparrows, zeros were entered for these species. I saw no reason to totally disregard the entire form and thereby lose information on other easily identified species such as N. Cardinal. My computer program could not handle different numbers of feeders for different species, so the same total number of feeders is used for each region.

Feeders were assigned to county and then region based on the post office address. (See below for a discussion of these regions.) It is possible that a small number of feeders were located in a county different from their post office address. Next year's form will specifically ask for the county.

Data was entered into an IBM PC using dBASE II. A simple test was used for determining the statistical significance of differences in % Feeders Reporting.

The distribution of each species was examined by analyzing three statistics; 1) the percent of feeders within a county or region that reported the species 2) the average total number of individual birds for each species at feeders reporting the species, and 3) the average total number of individual birds per species per total feeders within the region. For analysis and discussion, I am using feeder to represent the address of the observer, regardless of how many different feeders were present. The first statistic is a measure of where the birds are found, and the second is a measure of habitat quality for the species. The last statistic is a combination of the first two.

The three statistics described were plotted on Iowa maps, first at the regional level and then by county if finer examination appeared merited. Although the number of reports parallels the human population of counties and regions, the regional feeder totals were large enough to avoid most problems caused by small sample sizes. This was not always the case with data at the county level, as some counties were represented by a small number of reports. In several counties there was only one feeder reporting, but there were no counties without reports.

#### WEATHER

The effects of weather on bird censuses are well known, but difficult to predict. Several studies of the effect of weather on Christmas Counts were unable to find a consistent effect. They felt that the largest impact of weather may be through effects on observer participation (Smith, 1979 and Falk 1979). As most feeder watchers are indoors, I expect that bad weather would not affect participation in this survey.

The winter of 1983-1984 produced some of the worst early winter weather ever recorded in Iowa. The week around Christmas 1983 was extremely cold and there was a blizzard and ice storm. Many observers described a severe reduction in the number of species and individuals following the late December storms.

The week immediately preceding the 1984 survey was mild and may have

caused a decline in the number of birds at feeders, as the birds would require less food in mild weather and may have been foraging away from feeders. Several reporters noted that on the weekend of the survey, they saw fewer birds than on the weekends before or after the survey. This problem could be partially alleviated by running a longer survey. My experience is that a longer survey would greatly decrease the number of returns. I wished to maximize the resolution of this survey and felt that to do so I needed as many returns as possible.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of ninety-four species was reported, thirty-three in sufficient numbers for analysis. Species were analyzed if they were reported from fifty or more stations or if more than one hundred individuals were reported. Table 1 lists the thirty-three species which were analyzed, and includes the data for each species as grouped by regions.

The species reported from the most feeders were (in order of decreasing frequency): Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jay, N. Cardinal, Black-capped Chickadee, House Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and European Starling. Each of these nine species was reported from over half of the feeders. The species reported in the highest numbers of individuals were: House Sparrow (highest total), American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, N. Cardinal, European Starling, Black-capped Chickadee, and Blue Jay. European Starlings and House Sparrows are certainly under-reported in both numbers of individuals and feeders.

Most of the remaining sixty-one species were expected, being either species that one would expect at feeders, but present in low numbers, or expected fly-overs. Twenty-seven known feeder birds were found in low numbers. These include such species as American Robin, Varied Thrush, Rufous-sided Towhee and Fox Sparrow. Included in the fourteen species of fly-overs category were such species as Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, and N. Shrike. I believe that only twenty of the species reported were true misidentifications. These species make up less than 0.5% of the individual birds reported.

The number of species reported per feeder varied from zero (several locations) to a high of 29 (Muscatine County). The feeder which reported 29 species reported no highly unusual species.

Iowa's ninety-nine counties have been divided into nine regions by the Iowa Department of Agriculture. Each of these regions contain roughly the same area, and share geologic features, past biological history and present patterns of land use. These regions are indicated on all the figures in this paper.

The only other large scale feeder surveys with which I am familiar are those undertaken by the Burttis in Central New York. These differ from the present study in important ways. First, they record data for one weekend per month, for the entire winter season. Second, the region they cover is small, around 10,000 square miles, and relatively homogeneous: a circular region within 50 miles of Syracuse plus some of the western Adirondacks and along parts of the St. Lawrence River Valley. These factors combine to put their major emphasis on temporal changes in bird populations. Third, their sample size is usually 150-200 reports per period and they further decrease the sample size by discarding those which are "obviously incompetent" then randomly drawing out 100 reports for analysis.

The present study covers only a single mid-winter weekend. Iowa contains approximately 56,043 square miles, and is diverse geologically and biologically. Nearly 1,900 surveys were received. One of the purposes of this study was to determine if there were differences in the distribution of birds across the state. For this reason I discarded very few surveys, to keep the sample size per region as large as possible.

TABLE 1: Birds per feeder and percent feeders reporting the species.

Birds per feeder is the first line and percent feeders reporting in the second line for each species.

Species	Regional Totals									
	State Totals	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE
Ring-necked Pheasant.....	0.16 3.02%	0.10 3.17%	0.05 2.06%	0.12 4.00%	0.58 8.45%	0.18 3.56%	0.09 2.20%	0.20 3.30%	0.27 2.38%	0.12 1.28%
Rock Dove.....	0.36 6.56%	0.39 7.14%	0.97 9.28%	0.39 7.00%	0.86 11.27%	0.32 8.24%	0.35 5.03%	0.39 8.79%	0.13 2.38%	0.15 4.27%
Mourning Dove.....	0.60 13.00%	0.00 0.00%	0.21 7.22%	1.27 22.00%	0.03 1.41%	0.40 11.14%	1.54 31.76%	0.05 3.30%	0.13 4.77%	0.32 5.98%
Red-headed Woodpecker....	0.35 21.78%	0.08 4.76%	0.08 7.22%	0.23 17.00%	0.35 19.72%	0.42 25.61%	0.34 21.38%	0.29 19.78%	0.65 34.52%	0.42 26.50%
Red-bellied Woodpecker...	0.40 35.23%	0.30 21.43%	0.44 34.02%	0.56 38.50%	0.39 29.58%	0.50 36.08%	0.46 37.74%	0.32 27.47%	0.49 39.29%	0.56 37.18%
Downy Woodpecker.....	1.22 61.40%	1.44 57.14%	1.30 67.01%	1.02 52.50%	1.32 69.01%	1.27 63.47%	1.32 68.87%	1.04 65.93%	1.13 57.14%	1.10 53.85%
Hairy Woodpecker.....	0.49 30.73%	0.70 36.51%	0.74 45.36%	0.49 29.00%	0.63 40.85%	0.51 31.40%	0.45 29.87%	0.36 24.18%	0.46 27.98%	0.35 24.36%
N. Flicker.....	0.24 18.42%	0.20 15.87%	0.19 16.49%	0.12 9.00%	0.54 35.21%	0.25 20.94%	0.18 14.15%	0.23 23.08%	0.36 26.17%	0.25 16.67%
Blue Jay.....	3.31 84.61%	2.29 74.60%	3.15 86.60%	2.94 85.00%	3.87 88.28%	3.35 86.86%	2.81 82.08%	3.69 90.11%	4.14 86.31%	3.91 86.33%
Am. Crow.....	0.20 5.70%	0.33 7.14%	0.23 6.19%	0.35 10.50%	0.51 12.68%	0.24 6.01%	0.09 4.40%	0.09 2.20%	0.07 1.79%	0.14 3.85%
Black-capped Chickadee....	3.58 81.81%	3.36 76.19%	2.89 79.38%	3.70 81.00%	3.13 77.46%	3.46 82.41%	4.15 87.11%	3.16 79.12%	3.42 82.14%	3.74 80.34%
Tufted Titmouse.....	0.59 0.22%	0.00 0.00%	0.05 2.06%	0.31 14.50%	0.00 0.00%	0.39 16.93%	1.16 44.34%	0.07 5.49%	0.76 30.36%	1.27 36.75%
Red-breasted Nuthatch....	0.15 9.84%	0.11 7.14%	0.29 16.49%	0.15 9.50%	0.10 7.04%	0.16 11.36%	0.21 12.89%	0.12 9.87%	0.11 7.14%	0.09 4.70%
White-breasted Nuthatch...	1.30 59.69%	1.13 49.21%	1.53 68.04%	1.53 68.00%	1.32 53.52%	1.32 64.14%	1.33 60.69%	1.31 52.75%	1.30 58.33%	1.03 50.43%
Brown Creeper.....	0.05 3.88%	0.32 3.17%	0.04 4.12%	0.03 2.00%	0.10 8.45%	0.07 5.35%	0.05 3.77%	0.07 2.38%	0.02 2.38%	0.05 2.14%
Cedar Waxwing.....	1.21 7.13%	1.05 3.97%	2.19 15.46%	1.52 5.50%	1.20 9.86%	1.35 8.24%	1.02 10.69%	0.57 5.49%	0.42 2.98%	0.38 2.56%
Europ. Starling.....	4.21 58.89%	2.98 57.94%	4.81 68.04%	4.38 59.50%	4.92 63.38%	4.55 66.37%	4.27 59.43%	4.95 63.74%	3.15 38.67%	4.03 51.28%
N. Cardinal.....	4.99 83.30%	1.40 41.27%	2.43 54.64%	5.31 89.00%	4.34 78.87%	4.62 87.75%	6.70 93.08%	4.49 92.31%	5.68 84.52%	5.91 88.03%
Am. Tree Sparrow.....	2.14 30.22%	1.32 13.49%	1.76 21.65%	2.32 31.00%	0.69 14.08%	2.19 34.97%	2.49 36.79%	2.63 37.36%	1.95 32.14%	2.39 24.79%
Song Sparrow.....	0.65 13.74%	0.18 5.56%	0.38 7.22%	0.75 14.00%	0.32 9.86%	0.65 11.80%	0.64 21.07%	0.53 14.29%	1.02 13.69%	0.85 15.38%
White-throated Sparrow...	0.29 7.38%	0.07 3.17%	0.18 5.15%	0.30 6.50%	0.03 1.41%	0.34 9.58%	0.50 11.64%	0.19 7.69%	0.18 3.57%	0.24 5.13%
White-crowned Sparrow....	0.17 5.47%	0.01 0.79%	0.14 5.15%	0.03 2.50%	0.24 2.82%	0.10 4.01%	0.27 9.11%	0.19 9.11%	0.28 8.93%	0.27 7.26%
Harris' Sparrow.....	0.08 2.85%	0.18 5.56%	0.00 0.00%	0.04 0.50%	0.28 9.86%	0.05 2.67%	0.02 0.63%	0.51 13.17%	0.08 4.76%	0.01 0.43%
Dark-eyed Junco.....	7.96 88.65%	4.18 74.60%	5.89 83.51%	8.85 89.00%	5.27 83.10%	7.85 92.20%	10.48 90.88%	7.14 92.31%	8.11 89.88%	7.88 87.61%
Red-winged Blackbird.....	0.12 2.39%	0.08 0.79%	0.01 1.03%	0.02 0.50%	0.21 2.82%	0.15 2.50%	0.14 2.20%	0.40 5.49%	0.00 0.00%	0.12 1.53%
Common Grackle.....	0.14 4.28%	0.05 2.38%	0.24 8.25%	0.11 4.00%	0.08 5.63%	0.16 3.34%	0.15 5.03%	0.03 2.20%	0.03 1.15%	0.26 7.26%
Brown-headed Cowbird.....	0.19 3.59%	0.00 0.00%	0.05 2.06%	0.09 2.50%	0.04 2.82%	0.06 3.34%	0.28 4.72%	0.01 1.10%	0.07 4.12%	0.79 6.84%
Purple Finch.....	2.52 34.78%	0.68 14.29%	0.56 15.46%	1.97 34.00%	1.97 22.53%	1.12 23.16%	2.12 34.59%	1.27 27.47%	5.04 57.14%	7.24 67.52%
C. Redpoll.....	0.12 4.28%	0.02 1.59%	0.15 6.19%	0.11 4.50%	0.07 4.23%	0.09 4.01%	0.15 5.03%	0.02 1.10%	0.14 3.57%	0.25 5.98%
Pine Siskin.....	0.74 15.35%	0.46 7.14%	0.34 10.31%	1.11 16.00%	0.35 12.68%	0.53 12.92%	0.79 16.67%	0.64 16.48%	0.67 16.67%	1.26 23.93%
Am. Goldfinch.....	10.54 72.92%	5.35 50.79%	5.46 58.76%	10.07 68.00%	7.30 77.46%	8.03 73.94%	10.34 72.01%	10.66 78.02%	17.85 83.33%	16.63 84.19%
Evening Grosbeak.....	0.43 5.30%	0.42 1.59%	0.94 5.15%	0.50 7.00%	0.08 1.41%	0.30 4.01%	0.43 6.60%	0.04 2.20%	0.44 7.14%	0.66 7.69%
House Sparrow.....	17.57 77.42%	20.53 80.16%	21.67 79.38%	16.14 70.00%	19.96 81.69%	17.40 79.51%	16.39 79.56%	17.32 75.82%	19.57 77.38%	15.45 73.93%
Total Feeders	1754	126	97	200	71	449	318	91	168	234
Species	State Totals	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE

Note: For European Starlings and House Sparrows and to a lesser extent all of the sparrows these numbers may be an underestimate (see text).

Iowa is a state that is not uniform from border to border and the winter distribution of many species reflects this. As one moves from east to west, Iowa becomes drier, less wooded, less populous and more heavily farmed. The north and west are colder than the east and south. Table 2 describes some of the differences between the regions of Iowa. Before agriculture, Iowa was located at the eastern edge of the more arid shortgrass prairies and the western edge of the tallgrass prairies. The western border of the eastern woodlands occurred in Iowa river valleys.

TABLE 2: Some information about Iowa.

	ENTIRE STATE	REGIONAL INFORMATION								
		NE	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE
% FOREST *	2.50	0.59	0.94	8.64	2.41	3.13	6.56	2.50	7.65	8.10
% POP AS URBAN **	57.5	40.69	41.98	56.97	47.40	70.39	70.45	50.24	42.65	49.50
% POP**	100	7.0	6.8	14.0	8.8	22.2	20.9	6.3	5.4	8.4
% Acres in farmland **	94.1	96.3	95.5	93.1	95.7	92.4	91.1	95.8	94.4	93.1
Mean Precipitation **		27.69	31.09	32.94	29.87	32.18	34.21	32.66	33.69	34.56
Mean Snowfall **		34.7	38.0	34.9	32.5	31.3	30.2	26.8	27.3	26.6
Mean January temp.(F.) **		15.8	15.6	17.1	19.0	19.2	20.7	22.2	22.3	23.1

\* Iowa Conservation Commission, 1978.

\*\* Iowa Development Commission, 1982.

Several considerations need be made in interpreting data from this survey. It will yield useful information only on those species which use feeders regularly. The reliability of the data may be questioned, as this data was gathered by largely untrained observers. Using untrained volunteers to provide the data base used for this study may have created several problems. I depended on these people's understanding and following directions carefully. I attempted to write the directions clearly so as to cause as few errors as possible. I also depended on proper species identification.

Some fanciful species were reported, mostly sparrows. One hundred forty-six Chipping Sparrows were reported. I believe that most of these are misidentified Am. Tree Sparrows for the following reasons: 1) there are no accepted January Chipping Sparrow records for Iowa (Dinsmore et al 1984); 2) some observers continue to distinguish these species based solely on presence or absence of a visible dark central breast spot 3) many people are apparently unaware of the winter plumage of the Chipping Sparrow, especially the crown color; and 4) not one of the 48 persons who reported Chipping Sparrows is a regular contributor to the Field Reports section to Iowa Bird Life (T. Kent personal communication). None of these arguments is absolutely persuasive. But together they lead me to doubt these Chipping Sparrow reports. The distribution of Chipping Sparrows reports neither correlates well with Am. Tree Sparrows nor were these reports concentrated in Southeast Iowa (as might be expected from Christmas Count Data).

For at least some of the rarer species, the results suggest that the observers made correct identifications. Two of the five Carolina Wrens reported were also reported in an acceptable manner to the Field Reports Editor of Iowa Bird Life. As I read through the personal notes that came with the surveys people told me of four Varied Thrushes and three of these were well documented to Iowa Bird Life (Kent, 1984).

Together these data lead to the conclusion that for easily identified species, the data produced by such a study is valid. The thirty-three species listed in Table 1 are relatively easy to identify. It is likely that the absolute number of individuals and feeders should be higher for some species, but these should be random with respect to location and should not represent a large number under any circumstances. Chipping Sparrows were reported from forty-eight stations. All other species which were not analyzed were reported from less than twelve stations. With the exception of the Chipping Sparrow, Am. Tree Sparrow, any misidentifica-



tions are probably not significant. The largest individual total for questionable species was Chipping Sparrow with 146, this is less than 4% of the Am. Tree Sparrows. The next largest total was ten.

Some species show no significant geographical pattern, these are: Ring-necked Pheasant, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Common Grackle, Common Redpoll and House Sparrow. Figure 1 presents the distribution of the Black-capped Chickadee. Although this species requires cavities in wood for nesting sites, this study suggests that it is not as severely limited to the areas of the state with abundant woodlands as is the Tufted Titmouse (discussed below). The Black-capped Chickadee does appear to be present in slightly lower numbers in Northwest Iowa, however this is not statistically significant.

Another pattern is decreasing numbers from Southeast to Northeast Iowa. The following species show this pattern: Red-headed Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, White-crowned Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch and American Goldfinch. The data for the Tufted Titmouse is displayed in Figure 2. This species appears to follow the riparian woodlands. In making this assessment, one should be aware that the Missouri Valley, which forms most of Iowa's western boundary, has been excessively channelized and does not contain the woodlands that border many of the state's eastern rivers. A study of wintering Tufted Titmice in Massachusetts states that they are confined to the oak forest community (Kricher, 1981). Kricher also points out that titmice have a narrower ecological niche than the Black-capped Chickadee. Bohumil Shimek (cited by Madson, 1982) reported that in presettlement days, the streams in western Iowa tended to be less wooded than those in eastern Iowa. The present winter distribution of titmice may be a result of the modern distribution of woodlands or a relic of their historic distribution. While Dinsmore et al 1984 states that "titmice are common permanent residents in S and E Iowa, uncommon in NW Iowa", the present study allows the distribution of the Tufted Titmouse to be defined more sharply. The American Goldfinch (Figure 3) also shows a decrease in occurrence from the Southeast to the Northwest. This pattern is not as dramatic as that shown by the Tufted Titmouse. The goldfinch is found in every region of the state. A county by county examination of the data found no sign of a distribution which correlates with the river woodland such as was suggested by the data on the Tufted Titmouse.

Yet another pattern is shown by those species which are found uniformly across Iowa except in the Northwest. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, American Tree Sparrow and Northern Junco are the species with this pattern. N. Cardinals (Figure 4) were originally rare in all but the Southeast region of Iowa and began spreading into the Northeast and North Central regions in the period 1910-1920 (Brown, 1920). Although N. Cardinals are now found in all parts of Iowa, it is clear that not only are they found at fewer feeders in the NW and NC, they are also present in smaller numbers when they are found. The fraction of feeders reporting N. Cardinals is significantly lower in the NW ( $p < .001$ ), but the number of Cardinals at feeders reporting N. Cardinals is also dramatically lower (Figure 5).

Three species, Rock Dove, Downy Woodpecker and Harris' Sparrow are found more frequently in Western Iowa. Harris' Sparrow is a western species which reaches its eastern limit in Iowa. The fraction of feeders which reported Harris' Sparrow is significantly higher in the SW and WC, compared with the other regions of the state (Figure 6). The Downy Woodpecker (Figure 7) is distributed similarly to the Harris' Sparrow, although there is a slight increase in occurrence towards the South.



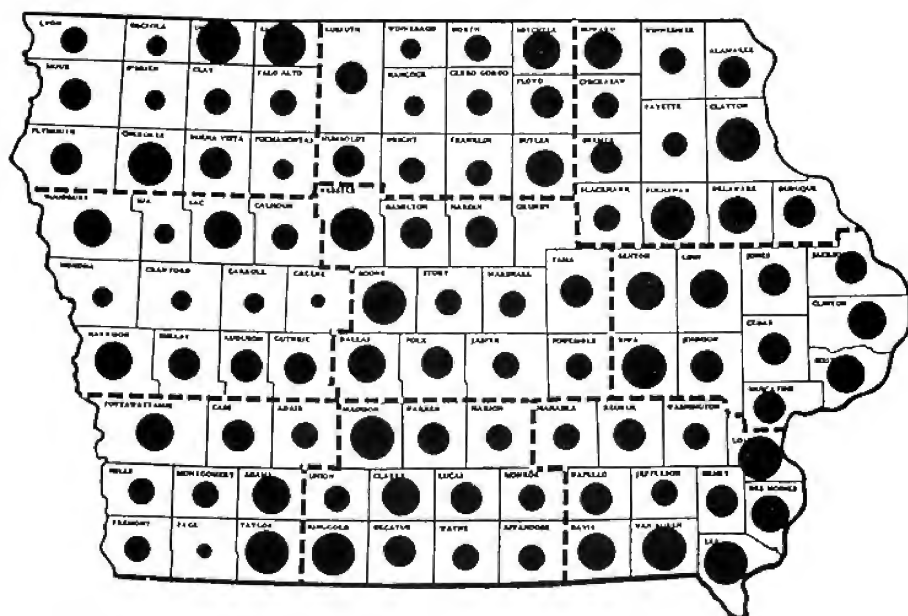


Figure 1. Black-capped Chickadee. The dots are roughly proportional to the number of birds reported per feeder. ● 1, 1.5 ● 2, 2.5 ● 3, 3.5 ● 4, 4.5 ● 5, 5.5

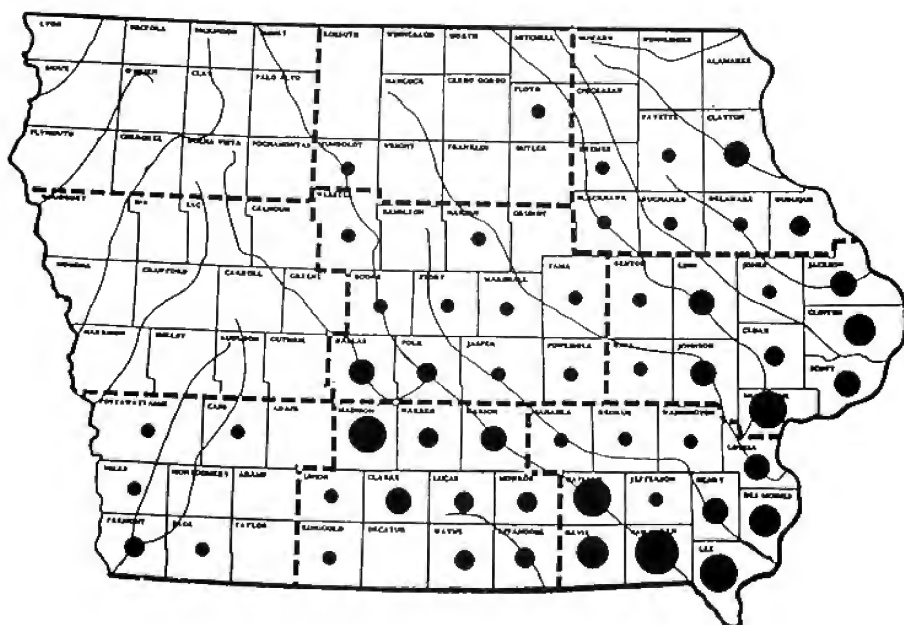


Figure 2. Tufted Titmouse. The dots are roughly proportional to the number of birds reported per feeder. ● 0.5, 0.5 ● 1.0, 1.0 ● 1.5, 1.5 ● 2.0, 2.0 ● 2.5, 2.5 ● 3.0, 3.0

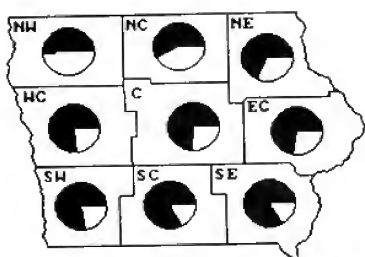


Figure 3. American Goldfinch. The filled in area of the circle is proportional to the percent feeders reporting this species.

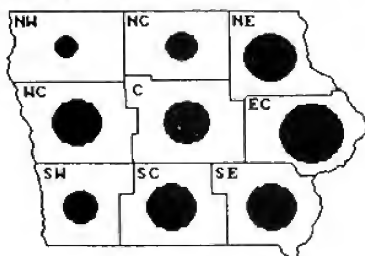


Figure 5. Northern Cardinal. The radius of the circles is proportional to the number of cardinals reported at feeders which reported cardinals. The largest circle (in EC) represents 7.2 birds.

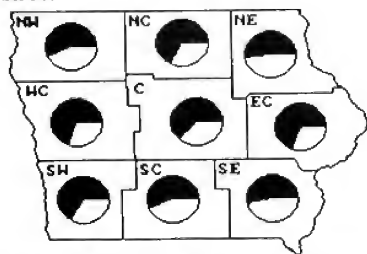


Figure 7. Downy Woodpecker. The shaded area of the circles is proportional to the percent feeders reporting this species.

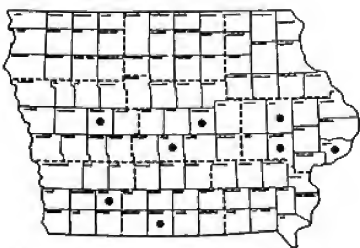


Figure 9. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Each dot marks a feeder where a sapsucker was sighted.

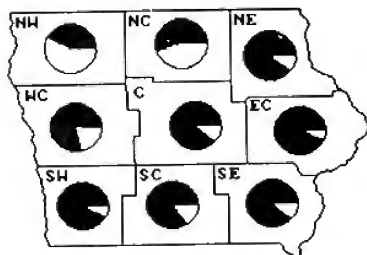


Figure 4. Northern Cardinal. The filled in area is proportional to the percent feeders reporting cardinals.

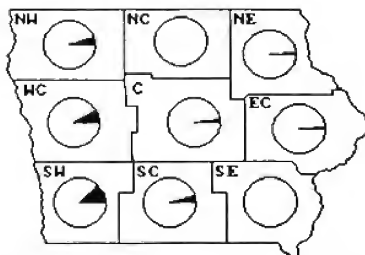


Figure 6. Harris' Sparrow. The filled in area is proportional to the percent feeders reporting this species.

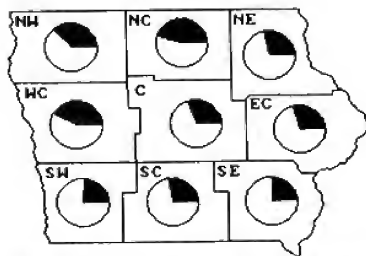


Figure 8. Hairy Woodpecker. The filled in area is proportional to the percent feeders reporting this species.

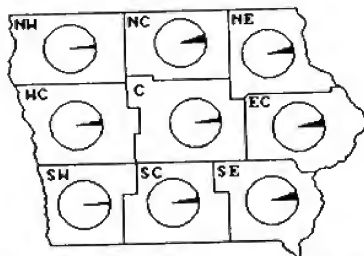


Figure 10. Common Redpoll. The shaded area is proportional to the percent feeder reporting this species.

Hairy Woodpeckers (Figure 8) and American Crows are found more often in the North of Iowa than in the South. For Hairy Woodpeckers this is highly statistically significant ( $0.0a(p<.001)$ ). This sharply contrasts with the distribution of the similar appearing Downy Woodpecker (above), another argument for the validity of this method.

My data shows that both Mourning Doves and White-breasted Nuthatches are found most frequently in the NE and EC regions and that the frequency with which they occur drops off to the west and south. Dinsmore et al reports that Mourning Doves are found in the highest concentrations in the Loess Hills (along the western border of the state) and in southern Iowa, and that the SE has the highest Christmas Count numbers. My observers in the counties through which the Loess Hills pass found no Mourning Doves. The mean Mourning Doves per feeder with Mourning Doves was highest in the NE. Correlation analysis suggests that Mourning Dove distribution is more closely tied to urban areas than forests.

Some species are found more often in southern Iowa and less often in the north: Northern Flicker, Red-winged Blackbird and Pine Siskin.

The Evening Grosbeak is observed more frequently at eastern feeders. This is probably not due to a concentration of grosbeaks in the larger urban areas.

Dinsmore et al 1984 provides the most recent summary of the distribution and abundance of Iowa birds. The winter distributions cited in this book cover the period 1960-1982. They were arrived at by a compilation of data from Christmas Counts, Field Reports published in *Iowa Bird Life* and occasional nonpublished observations. In comparing the feeder survey data with this reference, one must take into account three things which may cause them to differ. First, the Christmas Count period falls at the very end of Fall migration. Species reported on Counts may either migrate further South or die by mid-winter. Second, these reports are somewhat biased by where the birders are found, and there are very few reports from some regions of the state, with the central and east central regions being represented most heavily. The feeder survey also did not uniformly cover the state, but the large total number of responses gave us coverage in all parts of the state that are under-represented in other sources of data. Of the 99 counties in Iowa, only 19 were represented by fewer than 5 surveys. Third, feeder birds are not necessarily representative of the entire wintering population of the species. This question will be discussed below.

In most cases I find my results in agreement with Dinsmore et al. In several cases, especially that of the Tufted Titmouse, the feeder survey allows us to more finely define the species' range. The biggest differences are with Mourning Doves, already discussed, and with Rock Doves. My data show that Rock Doves occur more frequently in the west and decrease towards the east (comparing all three W regions with all three E regions,  $0.05(p<0.01)$ ), while Dinsmore et al makes no mention of any pattern.

The data for rarely reported species may be useful even if it does not lend itself to statistical analysis. Five individual Carolina Wrens were reported from four feeders. The fact that all of these were in Eastern Iowa (2 in Johnson, 1 each in Linn and Dubuque Co.) may be because this region of the state suffers less severe winter weather than the rest of the state, and these birds may be survivors of the recent population decline. Another explanation which is consistent with these observations is that these are colonists arriving from parts of the country where this species survived. One might expect newly populated areas to be closest to the area where the species did not decline. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is a species known to winter in small numbers throughout Iowa (Dinsmore et al 1984). The feeders which reported sapsuckers were all in the southern two-thirds of the state (Figure 9).

Whether the number of birds which come to feeders is representative of the entire winter population is not known. One can imagine reasons why this might not be so. The southern part of Iowa is warmer and birds in this region may not visit feeders as often or in such large numbers. This would cause a feeder survey to underestimate the species numbers in the South. In places where there are large grain handling operations, such as elevators or barge loading facilities, large numbers of birds (especially Icterids) may eat at these giant "feeders" and shun the kind of feeders surveyed. This question will be difficult if not impossible to answer without much more field data than we have available.

As this survey is repeated over the years, I expect it to allow description of changes in populations with time and to reveal: a) the influence of weather, b) periodic invasions, and c) the spread of new species. The winter of 1984-85 was not a major 'winter finch' invasion year. Common Redpolls were not numerous in Iowa. Figure 10 shows their distribution. It will be of interest to compare this with a similar map prepared from a survey taken during an invasion year. Will the increase occur uniformly in all areas of the state or will some areas show disproportionate increases? The House Finch is not yet found in Iowa in large numbers. The only three accepted records occurred in 1982 (Dinsmore et al 1984). Three House Finches were reported from one feeder in East-central Iowa (Iowa Co.) on this year's survey. (These were not documented to the Field Reports Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, and therefore cannot be accepted as definitive, a verbal description supports the identification.) It is expected that future surveys will allow the spread of House Finches into Iowa to be carefully plotted.

**SUMMARY:** A two day survey of 1,754 feeders was taken in Iowa on 28 and 29 January, 1984. The results proved that a feeder survey can be a useful tool for examining winter distribution of those species of birds that frequent feeders. The results for thirty-three species were analyzed relative to Iowa's biogeographic regions. Iowa lies on the boundary between the Eastern woodlands and the Great Plains, and several species are at the limits of their distribution within the area surveyed. The results of the survey confirm and expand our knowledge of the winter distribution of thirty-three species of birds.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This survey could not have been completed without the gracious help of numerous people, specifically Thomas Kent, Ann Kent, Carl Bendorf, Janet Hollis, Michael Newlon, Barb Wilson, Roger Medsker, Mark Lagrimini and Steve Brenano.

The Iowa State Conservation Commission and its Nongame Wildlife Biologist David Newhouse played a large role in getting this study off the ground. The Iowa Conservation Commission Nongame Program printed and distributed most of the forms.

Individuals of many local organizations also were instrumental in distributing forms.

Paul Waite, the State Climatologist, provided information used in the weather summary.

Finally, without the 1,800 people taking time to observe their feeders and send in the results, no useful information would have been gathered.

#### REFERENCES

- Brown, H.C. 1920. The cardinal in north-central Iowa. *Wilson Bull.* 32:123-132.  
Burt, H.E. and B.P. Burt. 1979. The Feeder Survey as a Method for Evaluating Bird Populations. *The Redstart* Oct. 1979:128-132.

- Burt, H.E. and B.P. Burt. 1980. The Feeder Survey and Trends in Central New York Cardinal Populations. *The Kingbird* 30:138-142.
- Dinsmore, J.L., T.H. Kent, D. Koenig, P.C. Petersen, and D.M. Roosa. 1984. *Iowa Birds*. Iowa State University Press, 356 p.
- Falk, L.L. 1979. An examination of observers' weather sensitivity in Christmas Bird Count data. *American Birds* 33:688-689.
- Iowa Conservation Commission. 1978. *Iowa State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. 268 pp.
- Iowa Development Commission. 1982. 1982 Statistical Profile of Iowa Des Moines. 118 pp.
- Kent, T.H. 1984. Field Reports, Winter 1984. *Iowa Bird Life* 54:16-20.
- Kricher, J.C. 1981. Range expansion of the Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), in Massachusetts. *American Birds* 35:750-753.
- Madson, John. 1982. *Where the Sky Began: Land of the Tall Grass Prairie*. Houghton, Mifflin.
- Smith, K.G. 1979. The effect of weather, people and time on 12 Christmas Bird Counts, 1954-1973. *American Birds* 33:698-702.

## First Nesting of Cattle Egret & Little Blue Heron for Iowa

ROSS SILCOCK  
BOX 300, TABOR, IOWA 51653

This article describes the first nesting of these two species within Iowa, which occurred at Folsom Lake County Park, Mills County, in the summer of 1984. This account includes sightings and comments made by Francis Moore, Loren and Babs Padelford, Tanya Bray, Carl Priebe, and Dave Newhouse.

On June 28 Francis Moore and I were travelling south on I-29 and as we passed the Folsom Lake area (north of Glenwood) we noticed several Cattle Egrets flying across the highway. Closer examination indicated that they were entering a clump of willows located on the east side of the borrow pit lake. We drove around to the entrance to the lake (no small feat, as the road was under construction) and discovered at least 100 Cattle Egrets were in the area, as well as a minimum of 18 adult and 5 immature Little Blue Herons. Several birds of both species were seen to be carrying sticks.

On July 1, Loren and Babs Padelford, my cousin Tom Broadmore, and I canoed out to the willows, which were in about four feet of water due to the extremely high water table on the Missouri bottoms this spring. We discovered approximately 135 nests, at several stages of construction, some as far along as having 5 eggs. Also present were 4 Great Egrets, Both Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons were carrying sticks, and many Cattle Egrets were seen incubating. However we did not see any Little Blues incubating. The nests were typically flimsy heron nests, built between one and twelve feet but mostly around two to four feet above the water. The willows were young, only reaching about 15 feet above the water. We estimated that 270 Cattle Egrets and 30 Little Blue Herons were present. There were two sections to the colony, a section in a clump of willows some 200 yards further north having about 25 of the nests.

A television crew from IPBN visited the site July 5 accompanied by Carl Priebe and Dave Newhouse of the Iowa Conservation Commission. Film was made of the nesting birds. Carl Priebe indicated to me that he and Newhouse had

photographed a nest from which an incubating Little Blue Heron had been flushed. The nest contained newly-hatched young. This is the only confirmation of egg-laying and hatching by Little Blues that we had at this colony. Unfortunately, the nesting attempts by Little Blue Herons were ultimately unsuccessful, as will be discussed later.

The colony was visited again August 17 by Tanya Bray and myself, and we found that all the Cattle Egret nests which were still active contained young birds. The young ranged from about one quarter grown to almost ready to fledge. We noted at this point that all the young birds had black bills, whereas the newly hatched young seen on an earlier visit had yellow bills. This bill color change will be discussed later. On this visit, we could only find one adult Little Blue Heron and no Great Egrets were present.

On August 27 I again visited the colony. By this time, the water level had subsided to the point where I could walk to the colony. No Little Blue Herons were present, and it was assumed that they had abandoned the colony. The reason for this failure to fledge young on the part of this species seems rather obvious. The months of July and August in this area were among the driest on record. Standing water in the fields nearby, as well as the semi-permanent sloughs in the area, had virtually disappeared, and along with them the abundance of aquatic organisms, especially crustaceans, upon which Little Blue Herons depend. While Little Blue Herons will eat insects and grasshoppers, these organisms normally constitute only a small percentage of the diet (Bent, 1926; Palmer, 1962). In contrast to the Little Blue Herons, the Cattle Egrets were enjoying remarkable success. Undoubtedly this was due to this species' dietary adaptability, especially the ability to utilize a diet consisting almost exclusively of grasshoppers, and the minimal dependence on the presence of water (Cramp and Simmons, 1977). Grasshoppers were extremely abundant during this dry summer.

It is a little-known fact that young Cattle Egrets prior to fledging (and a few individuals after fledging) possess black bills. At hatching, the bill and legs are yellow, but at about ten days of age, legs and bill turn black. They remain black until fledging, when the bill turns yellow. Cramp and Simmons (1977) surmise that nestling birds are able to recognize their siblings by their black bills and so do not waste energy or injure each other by pecking in attempts to obtain feed, but rather wait until the yellow bill of the adult appears, when feeding by regurgitation follows.

It is noteworthy that at fledging, when the bills of the Cattle Egret young turn black, confusion is possible with immature Little Blue Herons, which also have bicolored bills. This change is very rapid however, as very few young Cattle Egrets with bicolored bills were seen. It is also possible to confuse Snowy Egrets with newly-fledged immature Cattle Egrets with black bills. Separation of these birds is best accomplished by noting the yellow feet of Snowy Egret if possible, but most easily by the much more slender bill of Snowy Egret, along with its more delicate body shape and active manner of feeding.

On the August 27 visit, I counted some 175 young birds among the adults. This count agrees closely with earlier estimates made by Loren and Babs Padelford, Tanya Bray, and myself that the average nest had about two young, and that there were about 90 nests still active. These young birds were in all stages from about half grown to flying, although flying young did not venture far from the colony. Only two young birds could be found with yellow bills, while the others still had black bills. Birds with yellow bills could be identified as young birds by the absence of brown feathering on the neck and back and by the presence of a few downy feathers on the crown and back of the neck. Most of these young birds were carefully checked to see whether any were Little Blue Herons, even though no adults of

this species were present. Immature Little Blue Herons at this pre-fledging stage look very similar to Cattle Egret young, both being white with black bills and legs. The only difference is that the Little Blue Herons have black-tipped primaries (Bent, 1926). No such birds could be found, however.

On September 15 most of the young birds were fledged and flying about the colony. Most were yellow-billed, but a few were black-billed. Only about 50 young birds did not leave the colony with the adults. There was a total of about 300 Cattle Egrets present.

By September 21, however, all birds had left the colony and none were seen there subsequently. On September 21, 147 birds were seen in a wet pasture about five miles south of the Folsom Lake area, as well as another 66 birds near the Glenwood Sewage Lagoons. Presumably these were birds from the Folsom Lake heronry.

We were intrigued by the lateness of the date this colony was established, as normal nesting dates for both Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons are in April and May. It seems likely that these birds were displaced by flooding from a colony further south along the Missouri River and moved northward to Mills County. Alternatively, birds may have been forced to break away from another colony which had limited nesting sites. There is a very large heronry in Scott County in southeast Missouri which had 1,000 Cattle Egret and 450 Little Blue Heron nests in 1982 (AB 36:982), and a large heronry near East St. Louis which had 100 Little Blue nests and 30-40 Cattle Egret pairs in 1979 (AB 33:867).

In recent years both species have nested in states to the north of Iowa. Little Blue Heron has nested in Minnesota beginning at Lake Johanna in 1972 (Green and Janssen, 1975), in North Dakota at Salyer National Wildlife Refuge in 1976 (AB 30:969), and it "probably nested" in Kingsbury County, South Dakota, in 1982 (AB 36:990). Similarly, Cattle Egret first bred in Minnesota at Lake Johanna in 1971 (Green and Janssen, 1975), in Oconto County, Wisconsin in 1975 (AB 29:975), in North Dakota at Salyer NWR in 1976 (AB 30:969), and in Kingsbury County, South Dakota, in 1981 (AB 36:192). Thus both species have extended their breeding ranges northward simultaneously, and nesting in Iowa may have been dependent only on suitable conditions being available, as was the case in 1984.

#### Literature Cited

**Ab:** American Birds.

Bent, 1926: U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. #135

Cramp and Simmons, 1977: *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa*. Oxford.

Green and Janssen, 1975: *Minnesota Birds: Where, When, and How Many*. University of Minnesota.

Palmer, 1962: *Handbook of North American Birds*. Vol. 1 Yale.



IOWA BIRD LIFE - 54, 1984  
**Rufous Hummingbird in Northeast Iowa**

Francis L. Moore  
333 Fairfield St.  
Waterloo, IA 50703

Robert K. Myers  
1236 Sylvia Ave.  
Waterloo, IA 50703

Thomas H. Kent  
211 Richards St.  
Iowa City, IA 52240

On September 28, 1984 word was received of a possible Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*, at a feeder in Chester, a town of 175 people in Howard County. Chester lies in northeast Iowa on the Minnesota border just west of the hilly Paleozoic Plateau. The bird had been coming to the large hummingbird feeders at the home of Eleanor and Sanford Tyler. It was first seen on September 25 following a cold front with strong northwest winds and remained until October 2. The Tylers, former Minnesota bird banders, immediately recognized that the bird was unusual and tentatively identified it as a Rufous Hummingbird.

Moore and Myers arrived at the Tylers early on September 29 and first observed the bird at 7:40 AM. The bird fed at the two feeders on the east side of the house every 15 to 20 minutes, remaining about two minutes at a time. Between feedings it rested in nearby trees, especially on the dead limbs of a tall tree. Kent observed the bird late in the afternoon of the same day when it fed less frequently. A composite of our descriptions follows.

The bird was of similar size to an immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*, that fed occasionally at the same feeders. The long, needle-like black bill appeared slightly decurved. The eye was dark. The top of the head and back appeared green. The white throat was flecked with dark, suggesting a beginning gorget. The breast, sides and under tail coverts were pale rust. The rust extended across the upper belly as a narrow band, and beneath this the mid and lower belly were white. The upper tail coverts were a darker rust while the distal tail was black with white tip.

Photographs taken by the Tylers at close range show a white spot at the posterior rim of the eye and small rusty areas in the scapulars and mid-back.

The description and photographs fit an immature male Rufous Hummingbird as suggested by the Tylers. However, the description also fits an immature male Allen's Hummingbird, *Selasphorus sasin*, a species that is an unlikely vagrant to Iowa (see below).

The Rufous Hummingbird is the most northerly of North American hummingbirds, nesting in the mountainous and coniferous areas from northern California and southwest Montana on the south, north nearly to Anchorage, Alaska. After nesting, males leave first followed by females and immatures. Most fall migrants are found in the mountains, but some birds stray eastward. The main wintering grounds are in Mexico, but small numbers are regularly found along the Gulf Coast of the United States to Florida and some even reach the east coast of Florida. The bulk of the spring migration is through the lowlands of California and eastern Arizona with males arriving by mid-February and peak migration in March and April.

Eastern vagrants are almost all found in fall and winter and occur across the entire eastern United States and Canada. A search of Audubon Field Notes and American Birds for boldfaced records from 1948 through 1983, Bent (1940), American Ornithologists' Union (1983), books on birds of mid-western states, and an article by Conway and Drennan (1979) revealed 35 definite or probable records east of the Great Plains states (Saskatchewan to Oklahoma) and north of states bordering the Gulf Coast (Texas to Florida). Rufous Hummingbirds are casual on the western edge of the Great Plains in fall migration and regular in small numbers on the Gulf Coast in fall and winter.

In fall migration males may reach southern California by late June and are found in Arizona and Texas by late July with the peak migration in early to mid-August. The early eastward vagrants have also been males. Later birds may be males, females or immatures. The monthly distribution of vagrant records by state or province is shown below.

June: Minnesota

July: Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire

August: Minnesota, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Wisconsin

September: Indiana, Iowa, Maine (2), Manitoba, Maryland, Minnesota (2),  
New York, Ontario, Virginia, Wisconsin

October: Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri

November: Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania (2),  
Virginia

December: Arkansas, South Carolina

January: Virginia

April: Massachusetts

May: Maryland, Michigan

The 16 June 1979 record from St Louis County, Minnesota, could be an early fall migrant, as fall migrants normally reach southern California by late June and there is a 26 June 1977 record from Rapid City, South Dakota. Males are found far south and east of their nesting grounds by July with records from New Hampshire on 18 July 1976, northwest Nebraska on 20 July 1978, Midland, Texas, on 23 July 1960, Orono, Maine, on 28 July 1957, Anoka, Minnesota, on 30 July 1983, and Shreveport, Louisiana, on 31 July 1976. One-third of the eastern vagrants listed above are from September, so the Iowa bird arrived at the most likely time.

Unlike the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the Rufous Hummingbird may linger into colder weather. Several attempts have been made to capture them and protect them from the cold. The November to January records are from southern or eastern locations. On the Gulf Coast wintering birds remain until late March or early April. The spring records from Massachusetts on 15 April 1978, Maryland on 1 May 1971, and Michigan on 17 May 1981 are unusual. The source of these birds could be from those wintering on the Gulf Coast. The likelihood of spring vagrancy from the population wintering in Mexico is decreased by the more westerly migration route of this species in spring.

Some migrant birds have lingered for a few days to a few weeks; for example, late September to 15 October 1978 at Hastings, Minnesota; early September to 18 October 1979 at Selkirk, Manitoba; late September to 25 November 1981 at Arlington, Virginia, when it was netted; and 6 September to 22 October 1978 at Bemidji, Minnesota, when it flew into a house and died three days later.

Identification of an adult male Rufous Hummingbird presents no problem, as the rufous back clearly separates it from the only other similar species, Allen's Hummingbird. Female Rufous Hummingbirds cannot be safely separated from Allen's Hummingbird in the field, but there is no evidence of vagrancy of Allen's, a Pacific Coast species, except in Texas and Louisiana. The female Broad-tailed Hummingbird, *Selasphorus platycercus*, may have a cinnamon wash on the flanks and some red in the tail, making it difficult to distinguish from Rufous. In the female Rufous, the reddish sides, flanks and undertail coverts contrast with the white breast and belly and there is more red in the tail. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds have reached western Nebraska and further south they have reached Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Immature male Rufous Hummingbirds have rufous on the rump, separating them from female *Selasphorus* hummingbirds but not from immature male Allen's Hummingbird.

The Rufous Hummingbird is the only hummingbird likely to be a vagrant in Iowa. The same sources were searched for other possibilities. The Black-chinned Hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri*, is casual to Louisiana in winter and there are at least four winter and spring records from Florida. A specimen of a female at Kearney, Nebraska, was secured in August 1903. A female specimen was obtained in Massachusetts on 25 November 1979 and there is a sight record from Nova Scotia on 30 May 1964. Two hypothetical records are listed for Illinois from August 1967. Otherwise, the nearest vagrant records are from Wyoming.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird is casual to western Nebraska from mid-July to

mid-September, and there are May records from western Nebraska, southwest Kansas, and the Oklahoma panhandle. There are two winter records from Louisiana and one August record from Ft. Smith, Arkansas. This species would be very difficult to separate from Ruby-throated Hummingbird without having it in hand or hearing the male.

Calliope Hummingbird, *Stellula calliope*, the last of the northern hummingbirds to consider, rarely has been seen east of the Rocky Mountains. There are records from Denver to Ft. Collins, Colorado, in late July to early August 1978, Rapid City, South Dakota, on 19 August 1964, western Nebraska on 8 Apr 1962 and August 1960, and southwest Kansas on 3 September 1952.

Allen's Hummingbird, a Pacific Coast species that migrates through Arizona in fall, has been found in late fall and winter in Texas and Louisiana on at least eight occasions. Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna*, an even more abundant Pacific Coast species that winters in Arizona, has been found twice in Louisiana in November and once at Tulsa, Oklahoma, in winter.

Of the southern hummingbirds, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, *Amazilia yucatanensis*, is a resident of south Texas that strays to Louisiana. Two reported from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, on 10 May 1964 were considered highly questionable by Johnsgard (1983). Magnificent Hummingbird, *Eugenes fulgens*, a species of southeast Arizona and Big Bend, Texas, has been reported from northeast Kansas (AOU 1983).

#### REFERENCES

American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds, Sixth Edition.

Bent, A. C. 1940. Life Histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds and Their Allies. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

Conway, A. E., and S. R. Drennan. 1979. Rufous Hummingbird in eastern North America. *Am. Birds* 33:130-132.

Johnsgard, P. A. 1983. The Hummingbirds of North America. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.



Rufous Hummingbird at Chester, late September 1984, photo by Sanford Tyler.

## FIELD REPORTS FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1984

107

Michael C. Newlon  
408 Wales St., Iowa City IA 52240

### WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

August 1984 could be summarized in two words: hot and dry, the driest August in the 112 years of state records. Statewide precipitation was less than one-quarter of normal. September was first hot and dry, then cool and dry; statewide rainfall was about two-thirds of normal. The first killing frost was on the 16th, and frost was statewide by the 26th. Precipitation showed a pronounced gradient across Iowa; the northwest continued very dry but rainfall was nearly normal in the southeast. The dry weather caused reservoirs and other bodies of water, swollen by the rains of spring and early summer, to drop rapidly. Flooded areas regained some vegetation by summer's end but, at least in eastern Iowa, probably did not develop much in the way of food supplies to attract many birds: sparrows and hawks, for example, were scarce in the floodplain of the Coralville reservoir. The berry crop appeared good but most were gone by late October. The acorn crop appeared poor. Water birds, on the other hand, appeared to find the pickings good. October was first warmer and then colder than normal but, in contrast to the preceding months, was among the wettest on record. Some snow fell in the northwest. Early November was warm, but by the 20th temperatures were in the teens. Precipitation was again above average, except in the west, and some snow fell over much of the state.

### GENERAL TRENDS

It was a good fall for water birds. The heron concentration in southwest Iowa continued into September, and Great Blue Herons, Double-crested Cormorants, and Ring-billed Gulls appear to be on the increase. Nesting activity of Double-crested Cormorants continued at the Coralville Reservoir, and Western Grebes apparently nested at Rush Lake, Osceola Co. Tundra Swan numbers were high. The hawk migration was thought poor in some areas of eastern and central Iowa, but good in the northwest. Large numbers of Broadwings and more large falcons than usual were seen. Goshawk numbers were down from the two previous invasion winters, but the proportion of immatures was up, indicating better reproductive status of the population. The dry fall produced poor shorebirding in the northwest and some but not all species were abundant in the southwest; however the same weather produced good habitat in eastern Iowa. The drying flats of the Coralville Reservoir in Johnson Co. produced large counts of dry-field shorebirds, including unprecedented numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers. The migration of passerines was generally felt to be lackluster, except perhaps in extreme eastern Iowa. Brown thrushes were sparsely reported, as were many species of warblers: the maximum count of Tennessees was two! A territorial male Prairie Warbler in Shimek State Forest raises hopes of nesting there. Winter finches, Snow Buntings, and Longspurs arrived in force in November.

Perhaps because of the dry summer and mild fall weather, many migrants arrived early and others, especially shorebirds and insectivores, stayed late. See the species accounts for the many record early and late dates.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The bird of the season was the Rufous Hummingbird at a northern Iowa feeder; if accepted by the Records Committee it will become the first state record of this species. Other notable sightings were the Ruff at Hendrickson Marsh, Red Knots at Hendrickson Marsh, Coralville Reservoir, and the Illinois side of the Mississippi River opposite Pleasant Valley, the Black-legged Kittiwake at Saylorville, the Black Scoters on the Mississippi, and the Sprague's Pipit at Sioux Center. Thirteen of the sixteen casual species were recorded, reflecting the increased pace of fieldwork in the state; many of them will likely move from

casual to regular status soon.

**SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)**

**COMMON LOON:** A summering bird was reported from Big Creek S.P. on 23 Aug (SD). Migrants were reported from 31 Oct through the end of the period, with high counts of 11 at Little Wall L. on 3 Nov (JD), 11 at L. MacBride and the Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (CJB), and 20 at the same location 20 Nov (JF).

**PIED-BILLED GREBE:** Most reports were from Willow Sl., Mills Co.; 69 were there on 20 Sep, and a single bird was still there on 29 Nov (BW); 11 were at Saylorville Res. 25 Nov (SD).

**HORNED GREBE:** Two at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 16 Aug are, if migrants, the earliest on record (MMB). There are old nesting records of this species from Jackson Co., Minnesota, just to the N, so it will be worthwhile to look for breeding activity in this area in the future. Migrants were widely reported between 20 Sep and 11 Nov, with a maximum of 42 at Saylorville Res. on 8 Nov (SD).

**EARED GREBE:** Reported only from Willow Sl., where the first (and most) were 10 on 20 Sep (BW), the latest was 1 on 16 Nov (BW); and one was found shot on 23 Nov (BW), and from Cherokee Co., where a single bird was seen on 1-5 Nov (MMB).

**WESTERN GREBE:** An adult with two half-grown young at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 11 Aug (FLM) represents only the second breeding record of this species for the state. Migrants were reported only from the Coralville Res./Lake MacBride area, where what may have been the same bird was reported 18 Oct-4 Nov (TK,JF,TJS), and from Saylorville Res./Big Cr. S.P., 20 Oct-8 Nov, with a maximum there of 11 on 1 Nov (BE, E&EA, MD, SD, BPr, HZ).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** Large flocks were reported from several locations: 200-300 were at Forney's L. 5 Sep-16 Oct (B&LP,TB); 900 were at Ingham L., Emmet Co., on 13 Sep (DH); 280 were at Willow Sl. 20 Sep and 8 were still there 27 Oct (BW); 400 were at Sunken Grove, Pocahontas Co. on 27 Sep (MMB); 650 at Saylorville Res., 28 Sep (HZ) and 7 remained 24 Oct (SD); 54 were at L. Rathbun 23 Sep (RC). Late reports were of 7 over Keokuk on 3 Nov (RC), and 1 at Saylorville Res. 11 Nov (EM), for the third-latest report ever; this was eclipsed by the report from the same location 22 Nov, a new record late date (SD).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** The earliest report was of 12 8 Aug in Fremont Co. (TB,WRS), and the latest 18 at Saylorville 25 Nov (SD). Two nests at the Coralville Res. were still occupied on 17 Sep (BG). High counts were 150 at Forney's L. on 6 Oct (TB,BPa), 750 at the Coralville Res. on 7 Oct (TK), 350 at Hendrickson M. on 15 Oct (SD), and 600 at Saylorville Res. 24 Oct (SD). The rapid increase in this species over the last few years can be seen by comparing these numbers with the high counts for the fall of 1980: 50 at Red Rock Res. and 25 at Coralville!

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** The only report was of 1 on 21 Sep in Mills Co. (EN fide BW).

**LEAST BITTERN:** A late report was received of 4 at Snake Cr. M, Greene Co., on 25 Jul (LS). Single birds were seen at Folsom L., Mills Co., 4 Aug-4 Sep by several observers, one was at Big Cr. S.P. on 17 Aug (EM), and 3 were at Big Wall L. on 25 Sep (SD).

**GREAT BLUE HERON:** High counts of migrants were 443 at the Coralville Res. on 16 Sep (MN) (the high count there in 1980 was 55) and 300 at the Runnels W.A. 20 Sep-1 Oct (JSi). In western Iowa there were 200 in Fremont Co. on 5 Aug (TK) but numbers declined rapidly: 39 on 12 Aug (BW) and 35 on 18 Aug (TB,WRS) were the most reported after that. The only report received for Folsom L. was of 4 on 4 Aug (TB,WRS). Latest report was of 3 at the Coralville Res. 25 Nov. (MN).

**GREAT EGRET:** Abundantly reported from Fremont and Mills Cos. until

# FIELD REPORTS

109

mid-September: 74 on 5 Aug in Fremont Co. (TK), 23 near Nebraska City Bridge 12 Aug (BW), 66 at Forney's L. 18 Aug (TB,BPa), 77 in s Fremont Co. 3 Sep (BPa,TB), 40 at Waubonsie Access 12 Sep (MP). Only 9 were reported from Fremont Co. 15 Sep (BPa,TB), and the last report was of 3 at Forney's L. on 6 Oct (BPa,TB). Reports from elsewhere were later and mostly of small numbers: 1 was in Sioux Center on 21 Aug (JV), 18 were at Hendrickson M. on 15 Sep (HZ,SD), 2 were at L. Rathbun on 13 Oct, and 1 was in Fairfield on 18 Oct (DPo). The high count for the Coralville Res. was 83 on 16 Sep and 9 were still there 14 Oct (MN). One seen n of Iowa City on 19 Nov (JF) is the second-latest sighting on record.

**SNOWY EGRET:** All reports of this species were from the heron concentration in Fremont Co.: 8 in on 12 Aug (B&LP\*,BW\*); 7 on 18 Aug (TB,WRS); 10 on 26 Aug (SD), and 2 on 3 Sep (B&LP\*). The last dates are the second- and third-latest on record.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** All reports were from Fremont and Mills Cos.. An incredible 125 were at Folsom Lake on 4 August (B&LPa,TB,WRS); only once before, in 1934, have comparable numbers been reported. In Fremont Co., reports of 1-15 birds were received from several observers, 5 Aug-15 Sep, the last the third-latest date on record.

**CATTLE EGRET:** 350 were at the Folsom L. colony on 4 Aug (B&LP,TB,WRS), 150 (all imm.) were there on 18 Aug (TB,WRS) and on 15 Sep (B&LP); only 2-4 birds were present the next day (BW, B&LP). In Fremont Co. 150 were reported 5-12 Aug (TK,BW) and 300 were there on 26 Aug (SD,JD,EM). Elsewhere the only reports were of 1 at Saylorville Res. on 15 Aug (SD,JD,EM), 1 w of the city of Spirit Lake on 15 Oct (DH), and 3 at the Coralville Res. on 21 Oct (MN).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Few reports: 10 on 19 Aug at the Coralville Res. (CB), 2 18 Sep at Hendrickson M. (SD), and 1 n of Iowa City on 4 Nov (JF), the last a record late date.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** There were 7 reports from Fremont and Mills Cos. 5 Aug-15 Sep, mostly of 1-2 birds; 14 imm. and 2 ads. were there on 18 Aug (TB,WRS) and 9 were reported on 26 Aug (SD,JD,EM). A more unusual report was of 2 at Rush Lake, Osceola Co., on 11 Aug (FLM).

**IBIS SP.:** One was at Nashua, Chickasaw Co., on 29 Sep (SD\*,BPr\*,MP\*).

**TUNDRA SWAN:** The traditional concentration above Lock and Dam 9 in Allamakee Co. held an estimated 800 birds on 3 Nov (FLM,BM). This may be the largest number on record. 150 were there 4 Nov (BPr) and 108 17 Nov (TJS,TK,FLM). Elsewhere 15 were seen at Blue Wing M., Palo Alto Co., on 30 Oct (HB fide RH); 9 were at Saylorville Res. on the same date, and 5 were there on 24 Nov (SD); 1 was at the Coralville Res. 31 Oct (TK); 2 were at Keokuk 2 Nov (RC); 1 was at Big Spirit L., Dickinson Co., 8-14 Nov (DH); and one was at Dale Moffitt Res., sw of Des Moines 11 Nov (E&EA).

**MUTE SWAN:** One was at the Runnels W.A. on 23 Oct (JSi), for the 14th state record. The source of these birds remains unknown.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** Only 3 reports: 5 at Hendrickson M. 11 Oct (SD), 80 in Lyon Co. 13 Oct (DH), and 23 at Lake Odessa 20 Oct (GW).

**SNOW GOOSE:** 5 Blue-phase birds were at the Coralville Res. 23 Sep, tying the third-earliest fall date (MN); 1000 were at Forney's L. on 6 Oct (TB,BPa). "Huge numbers" were in the Council Bluffs area on 25-26 Nov, but not after that (CFS).

**ROSS' GOOSE:** 10 were at De Soto NWR 10 Nov (EK fide JD).

**CANADA GOOSE:** Few reports received. 100 were at Forney's L. 6 Oct (TB,B&LP); 6000 at the Kettelson Hogback WMA, Dickinson Co., on 3 Nov, was a record high number for the locality (DH).

**WOOD DUCK:** A large concentration of 386 was in beaver ponds at Saylorville Res. on 6 Oct (BE).

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** 260 were at L. Rathbun on 27 Oct (RC).

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:** 1 was present on 17 Nov at De Soto NWR (BW); during Nov, 9 were at Saylorville Res. (SD) and 5-9 were observed in the Mallard

- flocks at the Coralville Res. (MN).
- MALLARD:** 300 were at the Coralville Res. on 7 Oct and 3000 were there on 25 Nov (MN).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** A late bird was at Big Wall L. 10 Nov (SD).
- CANVASBACK:** 2000 were on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. on 31 Oct (CB) and several thousand were on the Mississippi above Harper's Ferry on 24 Nov (E&EA).
- GREATER SCAUP:** 7 were seen on 10 Nov on the Mississippi at Montrose (FLM\*), for the 15th fall record.
- LESSER SCAUP:** 1500 were at Saylorville Res. on 30 Oct (SD); 5000 were on the Mississippi in Lee Co. on 31 Oct (CJB).
- OLDSQUAW:** 2-4 were at the Coralville Res. 11-18 Nov (RJH,TK,CJB,TJS,JF,FLM); 2 were on the Mississippi above Lock and Dam 9 on 17 Nov (FLM,BM,TK,TJS,RC).
- BLACK SCOTER:** 6 were on the Mississippi at LeClaire, Scott Co. 26-29 Oct (CJB\*PCP\*,MLP,FLM\*,BM\*,JF,GW\*). Two of these birds were observed shot by hunters (JF).
- SURF SCOTER:** 5 imm. or females were seen on 27 Oct at Saylorville Res. (MD\*).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** 1 was on the Mississippi at Keokuk 31 Oct (CJB); 1 was at Dog Cr. P. in O'Brien Co. 1-10 Nov (MMB\*,DB); 1 was at Big Cr. S.P. on 7 Nov (BPr\*,MP\*). Two female or imm. scoters, either White-winged or Surf, were at Big Spirit L., Dickinson Co., on 4 Oct (CFS); this would be a record early date for either species.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE:** 125 were at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SD).
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Recorded from Saylorville Res. 8-25 Nov; maximum count was 13 (SD); 20 were at the Coralville Res. on 22 Nov (TK).
- COMMON MERGANSER:** 400 were at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SD).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** 1 on 23 Sep at the Coralville Res. was the earliest (MN); 100 were there on 11 Nov (TK); 125 were at Saylorville Res. on the same date (SD).
- RUDDY DUCK:** 500 were on the Coralville Res. 24 Oct (CJB).
- TURKEY VULTURE:** Few reports received. 12 were in Mills Co. on 15 Sep (BPa,TB); 2 were at the Coralville Res. 29 Sep (MN); 25 were at the Runnels WA 30 Sep-1 Oct (JSi); 1 was at Forney L. 6 Oct. The 6 in Lee Co. on 20 Oct (RC) tie the third-latest date on record.
- OSPREY:** 15 reports, mostly of 1-2 birds, were received from widely scattered localities. The high count was of 12 on 22 Sep in Luther, Boone Co. (SD). The latest, 19 Nov, in Lee Co. (RC), is the second-latest date on record.
- BALD EAGLE:** 16 reports were received, of 1-7 birds, ranging from 7 Oct to 25 Nov.; in addition 30 were in Allamakee Co. on 3 Nov (RKM) and 52 were seen along the Mississippi between Princeton and Sabula on 11 Nov (PCP). A total of 21 ads. and 51 imms. were reported; this ratio is the reverse of that found later in the winter on the Mississippi R. Eagle Survey.
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** 9 Reports received, of 1-12 birds. The earliest was 11 Aug, from Spring Run WA in Dickinson Co. (BL fide JDG), a date so early it suggests possible breeding in the area. The latest was at L. Manawa on 29 Oct (BPa,TB). They were "especially plentiful" in migration in NW Iowa (DH).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK:** The earliest was 1 at Ames on 11 Sep (SD); 8 in Mills Co. between 16 Sep and 27 Oct was considered abundant for the locality (BW); 43 were at Grammer Gr. W.A. on 22 Sep (BPr); 23 were at Luther 22 Sep and 36 were seen there the next day (SD). The latest were 2 at L. Manawa on 29 Oct (BPa,TB).
- COOPER'S HAWK:** Reports received were of 6 22 Sep at Luther and 11 there the next day (SD), 2 22 Sep at Oak Gr. S.P., Sioux Co. (JV), 5 at Hendrickson M. 16 Oct (SD), and 5 on 20 Oct at Big Wall L. (SD).
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** 1 was at Waterloo on 3 Oct (FLM\*), 1 at the Coralville Res. Dam on 4 Nov (TJS\*), 1 at Sweet M. 10 Nov (RKM), and 1 at Red Rock on 25 Nov (JSi). In contrast to the past two 'invasion' winters, when almost all of



# FIELD REPORTS

111

the birds seen were adults, all four of this fall's birds were immatures.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK:** Single birds were seen on 8 and 9 Sep in Muscatine Co. (MPR,TK,mob.).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** 2 in Stone P., Sioux City, on 23 Aug (JAH) provide a record early date. Large numbers are all from the third week of Sep: on the 16th 764 were counted in Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (MN,C&BK), where large flights have been seen before, and 400 were near Oxford, Johnson Co. (EF fide MN); on the 21st, 65 were at Ames (PM), 80 were over Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City (RJH), and 'hundreds' of hawks, presumably of this species, were observed migrating down the Iowa R. Valley at Marshalltown (BS fide BPr); on the 22nd, 31 were at Grammer Gr. W.A. (BPr) and 125 were at Luther (SD); on the 23rd, 36 were at Grammer Gr. (MP) and 115 at Luther (SD). A very late bird was at Sioux Center on 28 Nov (JV).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** DH considered them "plentiful" in NW Iowa; elsewhere, few were reported: 1 was at IPL Ponds, Pottawattamie Co., on 20 Aug (BW), 1 was in Fremont Co. on 3 Sep (B&LP), 9 were e of Bellevue, Mills Co., on 16 Sep (B&LP), and 1 was at Colo on 10 Oct (HZ).

**RED-TAILED HAWK:** Not many reports and no large flights. FLM had two dark-phase birds and one partial albino in NE Iowa.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK:** 1 was at Liscomb, Marshall Co., on 22 Sep (BPr\*,MPR\*); another was e of Laurens, Pocahontas Co., on 25 Oct (JC\*,RH\*).

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** 7 reports of 1-2 birds were received; the earliest was for L. Rathbun on 13 Oct (RC).

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** An adult and 2 imm. were seen in the Upper Iowa R. Valley in Allamakee Co., on 17 Nov (FLM,BM,TK,TJS,RC,JF): an adult and an imm. were observed playing, grappling each other and cartwheeling in the air, and an imm. was seen playing with a stick, dropping it only to swoop down and catch it in the air. The only other report was of 1 in Mills Co. on 23 Nov (BW\*).

**MERLIN:** Unusually abundant this fall: 13 reports, all of single birds. Birds at Larson M., Story Co., on 2 Sep (PM\*) and at Ames on 4 Sep (EM\*) provide the second- and third-earliest dates on record; others were in Louisa Co. on 8 Sep (MN\*,TK\*,mob.), at Jester P. Polk Co. on 20 Sep (SD,EM), at Saylorville Res. on 20 Sep (SD\*), at Grammer Gr. W.A. on 22 Sep (BPr\*,MPR\*), at Sabula on 23 Sep (PP\*), at the Coralville Res. on 23 Sep (MN\*), at Luther on 23 Sep (SD\*), at the Runnells G.A. on 30 Sep (JSi), at Hendrickson M. on 5 Oct (JF), and north of Iowa City in Johnson Co. on Oct 12 (JF). One at the Volga R. W.A. on 16 Nov (TK\*) provides a new record late date. Only three of these birds were documented as to age or sex; all were females or imm.

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** 10 reports, about twice as many as have been typical over the past five years. Single birds were seen on 10 Sep at Waterloo (ad.) (RKM\*), McFarland P., Story Co., on 15 Sep (SD\*), on 18 Sep at Union St. N.W.R. (banded imm.) (J. Sidel fide BT), on 23 Sep at the Coralville Res. (ad.) (MN\*), on 23 Sep at Luther (SD\*), on 25 Sep at Oakville (PCP\*), on 28-29 Sep at the Coralville Res. (ad., but a different bird than the first) (MN\*,JF), on 30 Sep at the Runnells G.A. (ad.) (JSi\*), on 5 Oct at Hendrickson M. (JF), and on 10 Oct at the Coralville Res. (imm.) (RJH\*). Brad Tordoff of the Univ. of Minnesota reports that the Minnesota hacking program succeeded in fledging 15-16 birds this year; birders, particularly in NE Iowa, should be on the lookout for banded immature birds. This species seems to be on the increase locally. Perhaps populations are finally recovering from pesticide-induced reproductive failure. For an ominous note, however, see the article on dicofol in the November issue of Audubon.

**PRAIRIE FALCON:** Five reports, again somewhat more than usual. An injured juv. was brought to the Homer Calkins Center at Iowa Falls on 27 Oct (RH), and one was seen on 29 Oct at L. Manawa (BP,SK). More striking was a report of three in WC Iowa in Nov by E. M. Martin, a vacationing U.S.F.W.S. Biologist who is familiar with the species: 1 NE of Goose L., Greene Co. on 14 Nov, 1 NE of Lehigh, Webster Co. on 16 Nov, and 1 E of Moorland, Webster Co. on 24 Nov.

(EMM\*) There are about half a dozen recent records from this part of the state; perhaps Prairie Falcons are more regular there than the record would indicate.

**RUFFED GROUSE:** The only report was of 1 in Allamakee Co. on 17 Nov (TJS).

**NORTHERN BOBWHITE:** Statewide populations were down an estimated 57%, as a result of last year's hard winter, which reduced survival, and cold, wet spring, which reduced nesting success (TL, Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman, 3 Nov, p3A).

**RING-NECKED PHEASANT:** Statewide populations were down an estimated 25% (TL, *ibid.*).

**GRAY PARTRIDGE:** 20 were at Union, Hardin Co. on 5 Nov and 24 were in W Grundy Co. on 19 Nov (PH fide BPr); 1 was found dead in e Story Co. on 22 Nov (BPr); 12 were in NE Marshall Co. in early Nov (fide BPr, who feels that the species is expanding its range to the SE).

**KING RAIL:** Heard at Jemmeson Sl., Dickinson Co. between 25 Jul and 9 Aug (LW fide JD). An adult and two imm. were seen at Folsom L., Mills Co., on 15 Sep (B&LP\*,WRS), and one was seen there the next day (TB).

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** 1 was at Big Wall L. on 25 Sep (SD). Single birds, one observed flushed and shot at Big Wall L. on 4 Nov (SD) and one, injured, found taking refuge in a turkey brooder house in Washington Twp., Buena Vista Co., on 26 Nov (V&EC), provide the two latest dates on record.

**SORA RAIL:** Three reports of 1-9 birds were received from 3-29 Sep; one seen on 19 Oct at Big Wall L. (SD), ties the second-latest date on record.

**AMERICAN COOT:** Large concentrations were 1500 at Big Wall L. 20 Oct (SD), 5000 on the Mississippi in Lee Co 31 Oct (CJB), and 1500 at Saylorville Res. 1 Nov (SD).

**SANDHILL CRANE:** The only report was of a single bird seen 20-24 Oct in NE Mills Co. (BW).

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Reports were received from only a few localities. 1 at Amana L., Iowa Co., is the second-earliest on record (CJB); 1 was in Fremont Co. 18 Aug (TB,WRS) and 4 were there on 26 Aug (EM). Birds were present on the Coralville Res. 24 Aug (CJB) to 21 Oct (MN) with a maximum of 24 there on 27 Aug (JF). 6 at L. Rathbun on 10 Nov (RC) are the third-latest on record.

**LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** Unusually numerous, mostly in E Iowa. The only report from W Iowa was of 4 in Fremont Co. 18 Aug (TB,WRS). They were reported from Hendrickson M. from 4-11 Oct (SD) with a maximum of 75 there on the 3rd (PM). At the Coralville Res. they were present from 26 Aug (CJB) to 28 Sep (JF) with a high count of 320 on 16 Sep (MN). 25 were at the Runnells G.A. 20 Sep (JSi), and 1 at Credit Is., Scott Co. on 3 Sep (PCP).

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** 7 at the Coralville Res. 26 Aug (MN) provide the third-earliest date on record; 9 were at Hendrickson M. on 1-4 Sep (HZ,PM,SD) and 1 was still there on 3 Oct (PM). The latest were 3 at Saylorville Res. 14 Oct (SD).

**PIPING PLOVER:** The only report was of 6 birds at the IPL settling ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 4 Aug (CJB,JF).

**KILLDEER:** High counts were all from major reservoirs: 83 at Coralville 28 Sep-10 Oct (MN), 70 at Saylorville 14 Oct (SD), and 27 at Rathbun 10 Nov (RC).

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** 8 were at Badger Cr. L. in Madison Co. on 15 Sep (E&EA) and 3 were at Colfax, Jasper Co., on 24 Oct (CJB).

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** Scarce in W Iowa: 1 on 18 Aug (TB,WRS) and 2 on 6 Oct (TB,BPa) at IPL Ponds, and 1 on 14 Nov at L. Manawa (TB,BPa). More common in C and E Iowa, where 16 reports of 1-6 birds were received from between 1 Aug (PM) and 14 Nov (BPr). Larger numbers were 72 at Union Sl. N.W.R. on 13 Sep (DH), 16 at the Coralville Res. 16 Oct (MN), and 12 at Saylorville 24 Oct (SD). 2 at Riverton W.A. on 17 Nov (SD) and 1 at Big Cr. S.P. 25 Nov (SD) are new record late dates.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** Earliest and most were 100 at Colo 1 Aug (PM); 60 were in Fremont Co. on 18 Aug (TB,BPa), and 59 were at the Coralville Res. 29 Sep (MN) and 30 were there 21 Oct (CJB). Later reports were of small numbers: 1 at Saylorville Res. 24 Oct (SD), 3 in Cherokee Co 1 Nov (MMB), 4 at L. Rathbun 4

# FIELD REPORTS

113

Nov (RC), and 4 at Big Cr. S.P. 8 Nov (HZ); 2 lingered at the Coralville Res. until 11 Nov (CJB,RJH,TK). The last two dates are the second- and third-latest on record.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER:** 3 in Davis Co. on 27 Sep (RC) and 1 at Ames on 2 Oct (SD) were late; 1 at L. Rathbun on 6 Oct and 2 at the Coralville Res. 7 Oct (MN) are the second- and third-latest on record.

**WILLET:** Most were reported in W Iowa: 1 at Oakland, Pottawattamie Co., on 5 Aug (CJB,TK) and 3 in Fremont Co. the same day (TB,WRS), 2 at IPL Ponds and 1 in Fremont Co. on 26 Aug (SD,EM), for the third-latest reports. Coralville Res. provided one on 20 Oct (CT\*), a record late date.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** 1 S of Ames on 6 Oct (EM) was late; 1 at Hendrickson M. on 9 Oct (SD) is the third-latest on record.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** More were seen in NW Iowa than elsewhere; 1 was in Wayne Co. 3 Aug (JF), a pair with 4 young were in Lyon Co. 10 Aug (BF fide DH), 7 were in Woodbury Co. 13 Aug (DH), 4 were at the Colo Ponds 19 Aug (MPr), and 2 were at the Ankeny Ponds 20 Aug (SD); 1 on the Coralville Res. flats 1-9 Sep (MN,SD) was unusual there. One heard at night, migrating south over Ames on 20 Sep (JAH) is the third-latest on record.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 1 was at Riverton W.A. on 4 Aug (JF) for the 7th recent fall record.

**MARBLED GODWIT:** 1 was at the Runnells G.A. on 1 Oct (JSi), for the 11th recent fall record and a record late date.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE:** 1 was at Oakland, Pottawattamie Co., on 5 Aug (CJB,TK) and 1 was at the Coralville Res. on 20 Aug (JF), for the second- and third-earliest fall dates on record. The Coralville bird lingered until 11 Sep (FLM,CJB). 1 was at Cone M., Louisa Co., on 27 Aug (GW,LH), and another at L. Rathbun on 13 Sep (RC).

**RED KNOT:** This species staged a 'mini-invasion' this year with three birds sighted: One present at Hampton, on the Illinois side of the Mississippi 31 Aug-9 Sep, was observed flying over the river on 1 Sep (PCP\*,MLP,KM,LLi). One was at Hendrickson M. on 15 Sep (SD\*,HZ\*,JD\*,PM\*,MPr\*), and another was at the Coralville Res. 15-27 Sep (MN\*,TK\*,CJB\*,TJS,RJH,C&BK,JF). There are only two previous accepted records of this species in Iowa.

**SANDERLING:** Widely reported in small numbers. The earliest were 8 at Union S.I.N.W.R. on 11 Aug (FLM); 15 were at the Coralville Res. 11 Aug (TK) and 8 were still present 23 Sep (MN); 1 was at Sioux Center 21 Aug (JV); 1-2 were at Hendrickson M. 1-15 Sep (PM,HZ,SD); they were present at Credit Is, Scott Co. 3-9 Sep, with a maximum of 22 on 5 Sep (PCP); 2 were S of Cherokee on 4 Sep (MMB,DB); 7 were at Saylorville 14 Oct (SD); 2 at L. Rathbun 4 Nov (RC) and 1 at Hickory Gr. L. Story Co., on 7 Nov (PM) provide the second- and third-latest dates ever.

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:** The only report from W Iowa was of 2 in Fremont Co on 18 Aug (TB,WRS). 120 were at Colo on 1 Aug (PM) and 65 were at the Coralville Res. 1 Sep (MN). 1 at Saylorville Res. 14 Oct (SD) was late; and 3 at Hickory Gr. L., Story Co., (PM), are the second-latest on record.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Most Westerns were eastern. In W Iowa the only reports were of 3 at Sioux Center 10 Aug (JV) and 1 in Mills Co. 16 Sep (TB,BJR). At the Coralville Res. they were present 19 Aug (CJB) to 17 Sep (TK) with a high count of 3 on 26 Aug (MN); at Credit Is. they were present 25 Aug-5 Sep, with a high count of 3 on the latter date (PCP); 1 was at Cone M. on 27 Aug (GW,LH).

**LEAST SANDPIPER:** Not widely reported. 20 were in Fremont Co. 18 Aug (TB,WRS); 33 were at the Coralville Res 1 Sep and 18 were still there 14 Oct (MN); at Hendrickson M. there were only 1-3 birds 10-15 Oct (PM,SD); 1 at Big Cr. S.P. on 8 Nov (HZ) is the third-latest on record.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** 1 at Saylorville on 13 Oct was flushed to show its white rump (SD); another was reported from Waterloo without details (FLM). There are only six previous acceptable fall records of this species, so it should always be documented at this season.

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** A good year for Baird's, but only in E and C Iowa. The only western Iowa report was of 1 at Riverton W.A. 26 Aug (EM). At Credit Is. they were reported 19 Aug-11 Sep, with a maximum of 5 on 25 Aug (PCP); at the Coralville Res. they were present 21 Aug (TK) to 23 Sep, with an unusually high peak of 18 on 26 Aug (MN); at Hendrickson M. they were seen 1 Sep (PM) to 18 Sep (SD), with a maximum of 4 on 5 Sep (BPr); 4 were at Colo 9 Sep (BPr); and 5 at Nashua 29 Sep (SD).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER:** Large numbers were present in Aug and Sep: 265 at Hendrickson M. on 1 Aug (PM); 230-300 at the Coralville Res. 12 Aug-17 Sep (CJB,MN,TK,JF,TJS); 500 in Fremont Co. 18 Aug (TB,WRS) and 1000 there on 29 Sep (EM); 125 at Nashua 29 Sep (SD). Thereafter numbers dwindled rapidly: 3 at Cherokee 16 Oct (MMB); 5 at Coralville Res. 28 Oct (TK); 1 at Waterloo 28 Oct (RKM); 4 at L. Rathbun 4 Nov (RC); 2 at Hickory Gr. L. 7 Nov (PM,SD); and 3 at Saylorville Res. 8 Nov (SD).

**DUNLIN:** They were "numerous" at the Runnells G.A. on 20 Sep (JSi); 2 were at Hendrickson M. 5 Oct (SD); the first at the Coralville Res. appeared 7 Oct and the peak was 67 on 28 Oct (MN); 3 were still there on 22 Nov (TK) and 2 were at Big Cr. S.P. 25 Nov (SD), for record late dates.

**STILT SANDPIPER:** Most were reported from the Coralville Res. where they were present 16 Aug (CJB) to 29 Sep (MN), with a peak of 80 on 19 Aug (CJB,TK); 10 were at Colo 1 Aug (PM), 60 were in Fremont Co. 18 Aug (TB,WRS), 3 were at Hendrickson M. 5 Sep (MPr), and 1 was at the IPL Ponds on 6 Oct (BP, TB), for a third-latest fall date.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** A banner fall for this species, again mostly in C and E Iowa. 7 were in Fremont Co. on 5 Aug (CJB,TK) and 4 were there on 18 Aug (TB,WRS); 2 were at Waterloo on 16 Aug (FLM); 1 was at Nashua 18 Aug (FLM,RKM); 1 was at Hendrickson M. 1-3 Sep (PM\*,JAH); present at the Coralville Res. from 17 Aug (JF) to 17 Sep (TJS) with a high count of a locally-unprecedented 18 on 1 Sep (MN); 1 at Credit Is. on 28 Aug was the first PCP had seen in Scott Co. in over thirty years of birding.

**RUFF:** A juv. Ruff was reported from Hendrickson M. on 1 Sep (MPr\*,PM\*,BPr\*), for the third state record.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Reports with diagnostic details: juv. birds were at the Coralville Res., where 1-2 birds were present 18 Aug (CJB)-1 Sep (MN), and 12 were there 26 Aug (TK); Amana L., 8 on 19 Aug (CJB), Big Cr. S.P., 3 on 20 Aug (SD); Credit Is. 28 Aug-9 Sep, with a maximum of 6 on 7 Sep (PCP). A bird in basic plumage was at Hendrickson M. on 15 Sep (PM), for a second late date.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Records with diagnostic details supplied: a bird in alternate plumage was at Oakland, Pottawattamie Co. on 5 Aug (TK); a single juv. was at the Coralville Res. 15 Sep (TK) and 10 were there 23 Sep (MN); a bird was identified by call at Nashua on 29 Sep (SD).

**COMMON SNIFE:** The first report was of 6 on 22 Aug at Cone M (GW); the most reported were 28 at Hendrickson M. on 29 Oct (SD).

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** 2 were reported S of Muscatine on 8 Sep (PCP).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 4 Aug (PM) and 6 were there on 1 Sep (PM,HZ); 1 was at Amana L. 16 Aug (CJB); and 1 was at Credit Is 25 Aug (PCP).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** 1 was at Waterloo 17 Aug (FLM); 1 was at the Coralville Res. 24-26 Aug (m.ob.); 1 was at Credit Is. 25 Aug (PCP,MLP,LLi); 1 at Hendrickson M. 25 Aug (MPr); 2 S of Cherokee 4 Sep (MMB); 1 on 29 Sep at Hendrickson M. (PM) ties the third-latest date on record.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** Most were in W Iowa: 8 at Forney's L. 15 Sep (BP, TB), 25 in Mills Co. on 6 Oct (BW), and 1 at L. Manawa on 14 Nov (BP, TB). Elsewhere 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 15 Sep (SD), birds were present at the Runnells G.A. on 20 Sep (JSi), and 1 was present at the Coralville Res. from 14 Oct to the end of the period (MN,TK), for a record late date.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL:** The largest numbers were from Saylorville Res.: 175 on 30

Oct and 275 on 11 Nov; 1 was still present 25 Nov (SD); 40 were at L. MacBride 2 Nov (JF) and 25 were at the Coralville Res. 11 Nov (TK). Numbers were small elsewhere: on the Mississippi 6 were in Lee Co. 31 Oct (CJB) and 2 were at Davenport 26 Oct (PCP); 5 were at L. Rathbun 10 Nov (RC).

**RING-BILLED GULL:** The earliest were 10 at the Coralville Res. on 16 Sep (MN); 20 were at Forney's L. and 75 were in Mills Co. on 6 Oct (TB,BPa). Large numbers were reported in late Oct and early Nov: 1000 at Saylorville 24 Oct (SD), 1000 at L. Manawa 4-14 Nov (BPa,TB), 1000 at Red Rock 25 Nov, 2000 at the Coralville Res. 26 Nov (MN).

**HERRING GULL:** One was at Davenport on 3 Sep (PCP), the second-earliest date on record; Singles were at the Coralville Res. 14 Oct (MN) and L. Manawa 3-14 Nov (TB,L&BPa). Migrants did not arrive in numbers until the end of the period, with 100 at the Coralville Res. 25 Nov (MN).

**GLAUCOUS GULL:** An imm. bird was with the Ring-bill flock on the Coralville Res. 25 Nov (MN\*). This ties the earliest-ever fall date.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** An imm. bird was seen feeding below the Saylorville Dam on 21-22 Nov (DT\*,FLM\*,BPr\*,MPr\*,E&EA,P&DM,MB). This is the 6th state record; all are of imm. birds in fall.

**CASPIAN TERN:** The earliest were 22 at Hendrickson M. on 15 Sep (SD,PM); smaller numbers were seen there until 3 Oct (PM); 73 were at the Coralville Res. 16 Sep (MN); 225 were at Saylorville 20 Sep (SD,E); 77 were at L. Rathbun on 23 Sep (RC); few were reported from the Mississippi: 3 at Oakville on 26 Sep (PCP) and 1 at Keokuk 15 Oct (RC) provided a third-latest report.

**COMMON TERN:** Details were submitted for 1 at Hendrickson M. on 2 Aug (PM), a record early date, and 6 on the Mississippi R. at Oakville on 25 Sep (PCP), the third-latest report on record.

**FORSTER'S TERN:** Few reports. 9 were at Hendrickson M. 1 Aug (PM), 1-3 were in Fremont Co. 18 Aug-6 Oct (TB,WRS,BPa), 1 at Credit Is. 2 Sep (PCP); 15 at Saylorville 20 Oct (SD) are the second-latest ever reported.

**LEAST TERN:** All reports were from the extreme SW: 3 on the Missouri R. from Omaha to Sioux City (BW); 5 were at IPL Ponds on 4 Aug (L&BP) and 2 there the next day (CJB,TK); singles in Fremont Co. on 18 Aug (TB,WRS) and 26 Aug (SD,EM).

**BLACK TERN:** Only reports: 6 at Colo 1 Aug (PM), 50 in Pottawattamie Co. 5 Aug (TK), and 20 at Big Wall L. 25 Sep (SD).

**MOURNING DOVE:** Most birds left Mills. Co. by late Oct. because of the poor food supply (BW).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Latest report was 1 on 3 Oct at Hendrickson M. (BPr, who thought them scarce this fall)

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** Last reported was 1 13 Oct in Shimek S.F. (RC).

**COMMON BARN-OWL:** One was observed at close range at Lake Odessa on 18 Oct (LH fide GW). The carcass of one killed and eaten by a predator was found in Mills Co. on 5 Sep (BW). The legs were not recovered so it could not be told whether this was one of the banded birds that had recently been released in the area.

**EASTERN SCREECH-OWL:** 1 reported from Forney's L. on 6 Oct (TB,BPa).

**SNOWY OWL:** One was reported from Saylorville Res. 17 Nov (E&EA). BPr provides an account of one found by a farmer in N Marshall Co. on 28 Nov, in his duck pen, where it had killed and was eating one of his ducks; he tried to shoo it out, but the bird refused to fly, so he picked it up (!-MN) and carried it out of the pen. When it still refused to leave, he thought it might be injured, so he caged it and took it to Garry Branden, executive officer of the Marshall Co. Conservation Commission. The bird was banded and released the next day at Carl Kurtz's prairie near St. Anthony. The owl was emaciated, with a prominent breastbone and weighing only 3 pounds (about 20% less than normal, even for a male -MN).

**LONG-EARED OWL:** 2 were s of Washta in Ida Co. on 30 Oct (MMB); 1-3 birds were reported from Big Cr. S.P. 21-29 Nov (m.ob.).

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** 2 were at Badger Cr. L. on 15 Nov (E&EA); 5-7 birds were at Tieg's M., Story Co., on 23-24 Nov (FLM,HZ); 1-2 were reported from Big Cr. S.P. 11-29 Nov (m.ob.).

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK:** JV considered them abundant on migration in NW Iowa; in E Iowa the only large concentrations noted were 73 at Coralville 10 Sep (TJS) and 150 at Iowa City 13 Sep, rising up and leaving to the south on a thermal (RJH). Late birds were 4 on 9 Oct at Ames (PM) and 3 14 Oct at Centerville (RC), the last for a second-latest date ever.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** The resident bird at BW's Mills Co. farm called for the last time on 9 Sep. One seen at very close range n of Harper's Fy. in Allamakee Co. on 3 Nov (FLM,RKM) is two weeks later than the previous record late date.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT:** The only large concentration noted was 2500 at Ames on 28 Aug (EM). There were many late reports of this species, probably due to the mild Oct weather; late birds were 7 at Ames 15 Oct (SD) and 2 there the next day (EM); 10 at Centerville on 17 Oct (RC); 3 at Ames on 18 Oct (PM); later than the previous late date were an amazing 200 at a roost in downtown Keokuk on 21 Oct (RC), with 13 still there on 27 Oct (RC); and 1 above downtown Iowa City on the unprecedented date of 26 Nov (MN\*). (Such late birds should be scrutinized with care, for they are not always the common, to-be-expected, species. This bird was not observed with binoculars but was thought too large to be a Vaux's Swift and was not heard to call.)

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** One was seen over Amana L. on 1 Aug, attacking a Forster's Tern (CJB). 3 were at Hendrickson M. 3 Sep (PM) and singles were at Ames 20 and 29 Sep (PM,SD) and Iowa City 4 Oct (RJH). One in Johnson Co. N of Iowa City on 19 Oct (JF) is the third-latest on record.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** A *Selasphorus* hummingbird identified as a Rufous Hummingbird was present at the feeder of Eleanor and Sanford Tyler in Chester, Howard Co., from 25 Sep to 2 Oct, and was photographed and seen by many observers (E&ST\*,RKM\*,FLM\*,TK\*,SD\*,BPr\*,MPr\*). See separate article. If accepted by the Records Committee, this will be the first Iowa record of this species.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** Most left Mills Co. because of the poor acorn crop, and the few that remained were caching corn kernels for winter stores (BW).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER:** 8 reports, of 1-2 birds each, were received from 17 Sep (BW) to 16 Oct (DPo).

**NORTHERN FLICKER:** 50-100 were seen in Hickory Hill P. Iowa City, on 22 Sep (RJH). A hybrid 'orange-shafted' bird was seen at Hickory Hill P., Tama Co. (RKM).

**PILEATED WOODPECKER:** The only report was of 1 at Grammer Gr. W.A. on 10 Oct (BPr).

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** 9 reports of single birds on dates ranging from 5 Aug (PM) to 19 Sep (PM); 7 were seen during the fall in SE Iowa (RC).

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE:** The latest reports were of 1 at Ames on 19 Sep (PM) and 2 at Sharon Bluffs S.P., Appanoose Co., on 23 Sep (RC).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** Details were provided for sightings, all of single birds, at Davenport 3 Sep (PCP,MLP), at Mark Twain N.W.R., Louisa Co., on 9 Sep (PCP,MLP), at Saulsbury Br. R.A. on 9 Sep (TK,BW), at Ames 12 Sep (PM), and at Davenport 21 Sep (PCP). This species is difficult to distinguish from Acadian Flycatcher in fall and the two should be reported with diagnostic details.

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** The only report was of two heard at Hendrickson M. on 1 Aug (PM).

**EASTERN PHOEBE:** Six reports of 1-6 birds, the latest at Red Rock on 1 Nov (JSi).

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER:** The last reported was at Ames 15 Sep (JAH).

**EASTERN KINGBIRD:** 35 were in NE Mills Co. on 4 Sep in a large patch of berry-laden gray dogwood, a favorite fall food of this species (BW). 11 were in

- one tree in Johnson Co. on 11 Sep (CJB).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD:** 1 was at Forney's L. 4 Aug (JF), and another was seen in Muscatine Co. on 9 Sep, on one of the I.O.U. Fall Meeting field trips (PCP,RC); this is only the 5th record for extreme eastern Iowa. A late bird was at Ames on 3 Nov (BS\*).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** An imm. bird was NE of Cherokee on 27 Oct (VB\*); this is six weeks later than the previous record late date.
- PURPLE MARTIN:** A huge roost was in Keokuk from the last half of Jul to mid-Aug; peak count was 6000 on 15 Aug; numbers declined rapidly thereafter (RC). 500 were at L. Manawa on 2 Sep (L&BP). The latest were 2 in Boone Co. 22 Sep (SD).
- TREE SWALLOW:** The usual concentration at the Coralville Res. was present, with 700 there 12 Aug, 1000 on 16-29 Sep, 2500 on 7 Oct, and 250 on 14 Oct (MN); 1 was still there on 28 Oct (TK). Numbers declined westward, with 250 at Big Cr. S.P. on 24 Oct and 3 still present on 30 Oct (SD); 20 were at L. Manawa 6 Oct (BPa,TB).
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW:** 3 were late at Hendrickson M. 16 Sep (PM); 30 at L. Manawa on 30 Sep (B&LP) were the second-latest on record.
- BANK SWALLOW:** 100 were in Fremont Co. 26 Aug (EM); the last report was of 6 on 30 Sep at Hendrickson M. (PM).
- CLIFF SWALLOW:** 1300 were NE of Cherokee on 13 Aug (MMB), and 200 were at Hendrickson M on 6 Oct (EM).
- BARN SWALLOW:** 1000 were at Forney's L. on 6 Oct (TB,B&LP); Hendrickson M. had 50 on 3 Oct and 3 on 16 Oct (PM,SD); 1 in Mills Co. 27 Oct (BW\*) is the third-latest record.
- AMERICAN CROW:** A roost of some 17,000 was discovered on Commercial St., Keokuk, on 27 Nov, drawing birds from Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa (BC).
- TUFTED TITMOUSE:** A flock of 17 at L. Rathbun on 11 Nov (RC) is large for Iowa.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** All reported were from C and NW Iowa: single birds were seen at Ames on 15 Sep, 29 Sep, and 7 Oct (JAH,PM); a small flock was at Sioux Center on 22 Oct (JV), and 1 was E of Larrabee, Cherokee Co. 24 Oct (MMB).
- BROWN CREEPER:** An early bird was at Oakville on 29 Aug (PCP).
- CAROLINA WREN:** Three reports of single birds: 29 Aug at Oakville (PCP), 3 Sep at Pammel Woods, Ames (JAH), and 28 Sep in downtown Iowa City (RJH).
- HOUSE WREN:** Late reports were of 1 in NE Mills Co. 20 Oct (BW), 2 at Ames 21 Oct (PM), and of an unreported number in Warren Co. 24 Oct (JSi).
- WINTER WREN:** 9 reports of 1-2 birds from widely separated locations; the first were 2 at Ames 21 Sep (PM) and the latest was 1 at Big Wall L. 3 Nov (SD). The most seen was 15 at Ames 29 Sep (EM).
- SEDGE WREN:** 3 were in Orange City 4-18 Aug (KH,DR fide JV); 2 were at L. Rathbun 23 Sep (RC); 12 at the Coralville Res. 28 Sep (JF); 2 were at Hendrickson M. 3 Oct (PM) and the last birds were seen there 11 Oct (SD).
- MARSH WREN:** 6 reports of 1-2 birds, from scattered locations; the earliest was 11 Sep at Sioux Center (JV) and the last 25 Oct from Doolittle Pr., Story Co. (SD).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET:** 5 reports of 1-2 birds from 29 Sep at Ames (PM) to 17 Nov at Centerville (RC); 15 were at Ames 28 Oct (PM) and 12 were in Cass Co. (L&BPa).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** The earliest was 1 29 Aug at Sioux Center (JV); small numbers were reported until 21 Oct, when 23 were at Ames (PM), also the latest report.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** The only W Iowa report was 1 at Waubesa S.P. 3 Sep (L&BPa). Four reports, 3 of single birds, were from E and C Iowa: 2 Sep at Ames (PM), 9 Sep at Mark Twain N.W.R. (PCP,MLP,m.ob.), 2 at Davenport 9 Sep (PCP,MLP), and 9 Sep at Wildcat Den S.P. (SD). (The peak on 9 Sep is likely an artifact of the I.O.U. Meeting rather than a genuine migratory



phenomenon.)

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD:** Reproduction in Mills Co. was considered poor (BW). Reports were: 13 in Appanoose Co. 13 Oct (RC), 24 in Johnson Co. 2 Nov (JF), 3 in Fairfield 9 Nov (TK) fide DPO, and 10 at the Coralville Res 11 Nov (CJB).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** Only two reports: single birds at Ames on 16 Sep and 3 Oct (PM).

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** All reports were from Ames: 2 on 3 Sep, 3 on 12 Sep, and 1 on 13 Sep (PM).

**HERMIT THRUSH:** The first was in Ames 29 Sep (JAH); 1 was there on 3 Oct and 3 on 21 Oct (PM); 1 was at Sharon Bluffs S.P. Appanoose Co., on 13 Oct (RC); JV had only 1 all fall in NW Iowa; 1 was at Iowa City on 21 Oct (TK).

**AMERICAN ROBIN:** 117 were at Sharon Bluffs S.P. 13 Oct (RC).

**GRAY CATBIRD:** The latest report was on 20 Oct at Ames (PM).

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD:** None reported for the fall; a late report was received of 1 on 27 May at Bronson, Woodbury Co. (JAH).

**BROWN THRASHER:** The last was at Forney's L. 6 Oct (BP, TB).

**WATER PIPIT:** The earliest were 4 on 16 Sep in Mills Co. (TB, BJR); they were at Hendrickson M. from 19 Sep (PM) to 3 Nov (the latest observed) (PM) with a maximum of 35 there on 6 Oct (SD, EM); 2 were in Cherokee Co. on 28 Sep (MMB); 15 were at the Coralville Res. 7 Oct and 46 there 14 Oct (MN).

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT:** A bird identified as this species was observed at the water's edge at the lagoon of the Sioux-preme packing plant s of Sioux Center, on 10 Aug (GB fide JV). The bird was described as being lighter brown than a water pipit, with a distinctly striped crown and back; unfortunately the leg color could not be seen. The report has been forwarded to the Records Committee, as there is but a single accepted sighting of this species for Iowa. All sightings of this species should be fully documented.

**CEDAR WAXWING:** The only report was of flocks of several hundred at the Coralville Res. on 11 and 25 Nov (RJH, MN).

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 1 was present at Laurens 2-12 Nov, and was netted and banded (RH); 1 was on the N side of the Hawkeye W.A. at the Coralville Res. on 11 Nov. (CB\*, RJH\*, TK\*, TJS).

**NORTHERN SHRIKE:** Not many reports. 1-2 birds were seen in Cherokee Co. on 25 and 30 Oct and 25 Nov (MMB); 1 imm. was in Winneshiek Co. on 17 Nov (TK, TJS); 1 ad. was in N Marshall Co. on 30 Nov (BPR\*, PH).

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** 6 were seen in Appanoose Co. during the period (RC); they were considered scarce at Lamoni, where 3 were seen for the period (JDG); singles were at Hendrickson M. on 4 Aug and 15 Sep (PM); a late report was of 1 at Alton, Sioux Co. on 18 Jul (BF fide DH).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** 1 was at Waterloo on 10 Sep (RKM); 3 were at Pioneer Ridge in Wapello Co. on 14 Sep (RC).

**BELL'S VIREO:** 1 was at Ames on 15 Sep (PM); a late report was of 1 on 26 May at Stone P. in Woodbury Co. (JAH). A very late report was of a single bird in Johnson Co. n of Iowa City, on 19 Nov (JF\*), beating the previous late date by some two months.

**SOLITARY VIREO:** The first were 2 at Ames 3 Sep; 12 were there on 15 Sep for the maximum count (PM); there were five reports of single birds 11-21 Oct, from scattered locations. 1 at Liscomb, Marshall Co., on 7 Nov (MPR) and 1 at Marshalltown Cem. 11 Nov (MPR) are record late dates.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO:** The latest report was of 1 at Ames on 27 Sep (PM).

**WARBLING VIREO:** One was singing at Ames on 5 Sep (PM).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** The earliest was one at Ames 8 Sep (JAH); the most were 10 at Hickory Hill P. Iowa City, 15 Sep (TK); and the latest was 1 at Lake Ahquabi on 23 Sep (JSi).

**RED-EYED VIREO:** Latest was 1 at Ames 27 Sep (PM).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** Single birds were at Iowa City 1 Sep (RJH, MN); Davenport 2 and 14 Sep (PCP); Ames 15 Sep, and Pioneer Ridge, Wapello Co., 26

- Sep (RC), the last the third-latest date on record.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** The earliest was 1 at Big Cr. S.P. on 20 Aug (SD); the maximum count, and latest report, was 2 at Ames on 3 Oct (PM, who considered them scarce this year).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** The earliest was 1 at Ames on 7 Sep (PM), the second-earliest date recorded; 9-10 were seen at Ames 30 Sep, 3 Oct, and 21 Oct (PM,SD); six later reports were all of single birds, with the last 1 at Ames 4 Nov (JAH) for a third-latest date.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** The first (4 3 Sep), most (16 26 Sep), and latest (1 4 Nov) were all at Ames (all PM). The last is the second-latest recorded date.
- NORTHERN PARULA:** A total of 11 birds reported. The earliest was 1 at Ledges S.P. on 18 Aug (SD) and the latest was 1 at Davenport 3 Oct (PCP).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** Earliest was 1 in Dallas Co. on 19 Aug (RC); most were 16 at Ames 15 Sep (PM); last was 1 26 Sep at Ames (PM).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER:** Few reports: 3 at Ames 15 Sep and 1 there 27 Sep (PM); 1 at Forney's L. on 6 Oct (TB,BPa).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER:** 1 was at Liscomb, Marshall Co., 16 Sep (MPr); 2 females were in Mills Co., also on 16 Sep, where the species is very uncommon (B&LPa).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** Four of the five reports were from Ames: a male on 2 Sep (PM), a female on 3 Sep (EM), a female on 8 Sep (JAH), and a male on 9 Sep (EM). It is possible only two birds were involved. An ad. male was at Davenport 30 Sep-1 Oct (PCP,MLP,BB).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER:** Singles at Ames on 3 Sep (PM) and 6 Sep (JAH) provide the second- and third-earliest fall dates on record; 25 were at Ames 17 Oct and 30 on 21 Oct (PM); the last was 1 at Ames on 4 Nov (PM).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** 20 were seen at Ames during the fall (PM); few were reported elsewhere; the latest was 1 at Shimek S.F. on 3 Nov (RC), for the third-latest date on record.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** 3 were at McFarland P., Story Co., on 15 Sep (EM); one at Ames 18 Oct (EM) is the second-latest on record.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** The only report was of 1 in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 20 Aug (RC).
- PINE WARBLER:** 1 was reported from Centerville Res. on 30 Aug (RC). Details were provided for four birds: 1 at Ames on 3 Sep (PM\*,JH\*), 1 at Waterloo on 5 Sep (RKM\*,FLM\*), 1 at Laurens on 7 Sep (JC\*,RH\*), and 1 at McFarland P., Story Co., on 15 Sep (HZ\*,SD\*,EM\*).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER:** A territorial male was present in the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. from 24 Aug to 15 Sep (RC\*, FLM\*,RC). The area, an overgrown brushy clearing with saplings and tall weeds, appears to be good nesting habitat; perhaps this area will produce Iowa's first nesting record. (There is a questionable nesting record from Lee Co., dating from the last century.)
- PALM WARBLER:** The first was 1 at Hendrickson M. on 23 Sep (PM); the peak was 3 at Ames on 3 Oct (PM), and the latest was 1 at Ames on 21 Oct (PM), for a new second-latest date.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** One of the more abundant warblers this fall. 42 were seen at Ames during the fall, with a high count of 12 on 15 Sep (PM); the latest was 1 on 22 Sep, at Iowa City (TK).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER:** 7 were seen at Ames 4-29 Sep (PM).
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** 3 were in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 20 Aug (RC).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** Earliest was 1 at Davenport 21 Aug (PCP); peak was 7 at Ames on 16 Sep (PM); last were singles at Davenport and Ames on 30 Sep (PCP,PM).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** 1 was at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 15 Sep (RC\*), for a new record late date.
- OVENBIRD:** Two ads. and a fledgling were in Stone P., Woodbury Co., on 23 Aug (JAH); 23 were seen at Ames during the fall (PM).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH:** Few reported. Earliest was 1 at Ames 24 Aug (SD); 4 were there 29 Aug-6 Sep (PM); 1 was at the Coralville Res. 7 Oct (MN).

- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** 1 was in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 20 Aug (RC).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER:** Late birds were at Shimek S.F. on 13 Sep (RC) and at Pioneer Ridge, Wapello Co., on 14 Sep (RC).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** 2 were at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City, on 21 Aug (TK), for the second-earliest date recorded; singles were at Ames 30 Aug and 3 Sep (EM\*,PM); 2 were at Grammer Gr. W.A. on 3 Sep (BPr); and 1 was at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City, on 21 Sep (RJH).
- MOURNING WARBLER:** Single birds were at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City, on 26 Aug (TK), Davenport on 2 Sep (PCP), and Mark Twain N.W.R. on 9 Sep (PCP,m.ob.).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT:** Single birds at Ames on 14 Oct (PM) and at Hendrickson M. on 15 Oct (SD) are the second- and third-latest on record.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Earliest and latest were single birds at Davenport, 24 Aug and 22 Sep (PCP); 25 were seen at Ames during the fall (PM).
- CANADA WARBLER:** Six reports of a total of 7 birds. Earliest was 1 at Iowa City on 19 Aug (TK); latest was 1 at Ames on 20 Sep (PM).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** Three reports, all from the SE: 1 was in Appanoose Co on 3 Aug (JF), 1 at Mark Twain N.W.R. on 9 Sep (PCP,m.ob.), and 1 at Pioneer Ridge, Wapello Co., on 14 Sep (RC).
- SUMMER Tanager:** 1 was at Waubonsie S.P. on 5 Aug (JF); another in Cedar Co. on 3 Sep (JF).
- SCARLET Tanager:** Latest report was of 1 at Davenport on 20 Oct (PCP).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** Latest was 1 at Ames 3 Oct (PM).
- BLUE GROSBEAK:** All reports from the W and NW: 4 in Fremont Co. on 4 Aug (JF) and 5 there 26 Aug (SD,EM); 1 in Cherokee Co. 7 Aug and 2 there on 21 Aug (MMB); 5 in Woodbury Co. on 9 Aug (JAH).
- INDIGO BUNTING:** 4 at Forney L. on 6 Oct (BPa,TB) and 1 at L. Rathbun on the same date (RC) were late. 1 at Big Cr. S.P. on 4 Nov (JSc\*) is a record late date for Iowa.
- DICKCISSEL:** Latest was 1 found dead in Mills Co. on 2 Oct (BB,BW).
- RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE:** Few reports. Present at L. Ahquabi 23 Sep-23 Oct (JSi); 1 at Ames 3 Oct and 20 Oct (PM,JAH); 2 of the spotted western race were at Forney's Lake on 6 Oct (TB,BPa); one of the eastern race was at the Coralville Res. on 7 Oct (MN).
- AMERICAN TREE SPARROW:** First report was 14 Sep in Warren Co. (JSi).
- CHIPPING SPARROW:** Latest were 10 at Ames on 31 Oct (PM).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Only report was of 1 at Hendrickson M. 31 Oct (PM).
- FIELD SPARROW:** Latest report: 2 at Ames on 31 Oct (PM).
- VESPER SPARROW:** Latest was 1 at Hendrickson M. 17 Oct (PM).
- LARK SPARROW:** Both reports from W. Iowa: 7 in Woodbury Co. on 9 Aug (JAH) and 3 at Sioux Center on 13 Sep (JV).
- LARK BUNTING:** A late report was of 2 males in Sioux Co. on 14 Jun (CT\*). Lark Buntings are presently classified as 'casual' but are probably of regular occurrence in W Iowa.
- SAVANNAH SPARROW:** Latest were 6 at L. Rathbun on 4 Nov (RC).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** 1 was singing at Hendrickson M. on 4 Aug (PM); this was the only report.
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** A good fall for this species at Hendrickson M., with reports from many observers. First report was of a single bird there on 16 Sep (PM,JAH); 30 were there on 4 Oct (EM); last report was of 15 on 24 Oct (SD). The only other report was also from Story Co., 1 at Doolittle Prairie on 21 Oct (PM).
- SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** 1-2 birds were at Hendrickson M. 22 Sep-10 Oct (HZ\*,PM\*,MPr\*,JF). There are only 19 previous records of this species in Iowa; it undoubtedly occurs more regularly than this, and more regular coverage of marsh habitat would raise its status from 'casual' to 'regular'.
- FOX SPARROW:** Earliest was 1 at Ames 3 Oct (PM); maximum was 9 there 31 Oct

- (PM); last was 1 at Centerville 25 Nov (RC).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Earliest was 1 at the Coralville Res. 23 Sep (MN); maximum counts were 10 at Forney's L. on 6 Oct (BP, TB) and at the Coralville Res. 7 Oct (TK), also the latest.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** First were 1 at Davenport 14 Sep (PCP), 2 at Ames (PM) and 1 at Iowa City (TK) on 15 Sep; 100 were at Ames on 3 Oct and 21 Oct (PM). Only report from W Iowa was 2 at Forney's L. on 6 Oct (TB, BP).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** 2 were at Hendrickson M. on 3 Oct and 21 at Ames on 21 Oct (PM).
- HARRIS'S SPARROW:** The first birds seen in Mills Co. were on 29 Sep (BW). In C and E Iowa numbers were small: 2 at Ames on 3 Oct (PM), 1 at Cone M. 13 Oct (GW), 10 at Hendrickson M. 13 Oct and 7 at Ames on 20 Oct (PM), the maximum counts, 2 in Linn Co. 21 Oct (JF), and 1 in Floyd Co. on 28 Oct (TJS), the latest.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** First were 17 in Mills Co. on 20 Sep (BW) and 1 at Swaledale, Cerro Gordo Co., on 27 Sep (LG); first reports from other areas were between 30 Sep and 4 Oct (mob).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** Most reports were from C Iowa. Earliest were seen on 10 Oct: 5 at Doolittle Prairie (SD) and 23 at Larson M., Story Co. (PM). Mid-Nov brought a massive invasion with 2500 at Colo Ponds on 10 Nov (HZ), 350 in Story Co. on the same date (SD), and four flocks totalling 3100 in Story Co. on 11 Nov (PM). 50 were at Hendrickson M. on 17 Nov (HZ) and the last report was of 40 at Booneville, Dallas Co., on 27 Nov (E&EA). Several flocks of 20 to 70 were in Cherokee and Buena Vista Cos. 14 Nov (DB).
- SNOW BUNTING:** A flurry of reports in early to mid-Nov: 2 at the Coralville Res 2 Nov (JF); 2 at Hickory Gr. L. in Story Co. on 4 Nov (PM); 22 in Wright Co. on 10 Nov (SD); 3 in Grundy Co. 13 Nov (MPr); 6 on 19 Nov in O'Brien Co. (MMB); and 4 in Tama Co. on 19 Nov (MPr).
- BOBOLINK:** Latest were 4 on 9 Sep at Mark Twain N.W.R. (PCP, mob).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** 40 were at Tieg's M., Story Co., on 22 Nov (SD) (only report).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Seen in Warren Co. 24 Oct (JSi); 18 were observed at close range near Lamoni on 8 Nov (JDG, who states that this species is regular in the area, in small groups, in Apr and Nov).
- GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** 2 were at Riverton W.A. on 4 Aug (JF).
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD:** A flock of 2500 was in Mills Co. on 6 Oct (TB, B&LPa).
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** Latest was 1 at Ames on 13 Sep (PM), tying the third-latest date on record.
- PINE GROSBEAK:** An imm. male was at Lamoni on 8 Nov (JB\*, JL\*), and an imm. or female was in Cass Co. on 11 Nov (L&BP\*).
- PURPLE FINCH:** Very few reports and no large numbers.
- RED CROSSBILL:** Widespread in small numbers from early Nov on, mostly in the E half of Iowa. Earliest were 2 in the Yellow R. S.F., Allamakee Co., on 3 Nov (RKM, FLM); 8-50 were in Fairmont Cem., Davenport 6-19 Nov (PCP); 5 were at Liscomb, Marshall Co., on 6 Nov (BPr); 1 was at Sweet M. and 30 at Waterloo on 10 Nov (RKM); 1 was on the Davis/Appanoose Co. line 11 Nov (FLM); 12 were at Union 11 Nov (PH fide BPr) and 7 at Waterloo the same day (BPr); 8 were in Greenwood Cem, Muscatine, on 12 Nov and 2 were still there on 17 Nov (GW; TD fide GW); 3 were in Bangor Cem, Marshall Co. on 17 Nov (BPr); 6 were in High Amana Cem. on 22 Nov (CJB); and 2 in Iowa City at the U.I. Medical Center on 22 Nov (JF). In NW Iowa 6 were in Sioux Center on 22 Nov (JV) and 6 at Big Spirit L., Dickinson Co., on 24 Nov (LF fide DH).
- WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** Not so numerous as the Reds. 2 in E Amana on 11 Nov, and 1 in High Amana the next day (CJB); 5 in Fairmont Cem., Davenport, on 11 Nov (PCP); 1 was at Union, Hardin Co., on 18 Nov (HZ).
- COMMON REDPOLL:** Small numbers: 1 in the Yellow R. S.F. 4 Nov (BPr); 1 at Davenport on 6 Nov (PCP); 6 ne of Larrabee, Cherokee Co., on 8 Nov and 1 in Cherokee 18 Nov (MMB); singles at Union, Hardin Co., 13 and 18 Nov

(MPR,HZ,BPR).

**PINE SISKIN:** One was seen on the decidedly odd date of 30 Aug at Cherokee (DB, who thought that it had perhaps summered in the area). There are no previous Iowa summer records later than 30 Jun, and no previous fall records earlier than 22 Sep. A major fall flight to C and SE Iowa started with 15 at Ames on 2 Oct (SD) and 17 there on 21 Oct (EM); 48 were in Appanoose Co. on 27 Oct (RC); they arrived in the Quad-Cities area 14 Oct, with "hundreds" present later (PCP) and they were "numerous" in Nov in Johnson Co. (JF); 30 were at Iowa City on 18 Nov (TJS), and 300 were in Muscatine on 22 Nov (RC). In SW Iowa numbers reported were smaller: 5 in NE Mills Co. on 19 Oct and 2 there 2 Nov (BW); 35 in Council Bluffs on 14 Nov (BPa,TB) and 5 there 21-27 Nov (CFS). In NW Iowa 36 were in Cherokee on 22 Nov (DB); small numbers arrived at Sioux Center on 22 Nov (JV), and 8 were at Larchwood, Lyon Co., on 25 Nov (DH).

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** Few were reported: 3 were in Sioux Center on 30 Oct but did not linger (JV); 1 was in Bettendorf on 10 Nov (LLe fide PCP); and was at Sweet M. on 10 Nov (RKM).

### CONTRIBUTORS

Eugene and Eloise Armstrong, Booneville; Carl J. Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Vernon Bierman, Cherokee; Tanya Bray, Omaha, NE; Joseph R. Breshears, Lamoni; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Judith Carlson, Laurens; Myers & Robert Cecil, Keokuk; Virginia and Ed Crocker, Storm Lake; Ray Cummins, Centerville; James Dinsmore, Ames; Steve Dinsmore, Ames; Mark Dixon, Ames; Bery Engebretsen, Johnston; James Fuller, Iowa City; Lucille Gaffney, Swaledale; J. Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Bud Gode, Iowa City; Lanny Haldy, Amana; Ron Harms, Laurens; Dour Harr, Larchwood; Richard J. Hollis, Iowa City; Jack A. Holloway, III, Ames; Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City; Jeff Livingston, Lamoni; Paul Martsching, Ames; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; Erik Munson, Ames; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Mike Newlon, Iowa City; Babs & Loren Padelford, Bellevue, NE; Mary Lou & Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Diane Porter, Fairfield; Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; Joe Schaufenbuel, Ames; Conrad F. Schlemmer, Council Bluffs; Lee Searles, Ames; John Sidle, Fort Snelling, MN; Jim Sinclair, Indianola; Thomas J. Staudt, Iowa City; Dennis Thompson, Des Moines; Carol Thompson, Iowa City; Eleanor and Sanford Tyler, Chester; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Gerald White, Muscatine; Barb Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Colo.

### OTHER OBSERVERS

Bach Bakehouse (BW); Brian Blevins (PCP); Corey Blevins (PCP); Lewis Blevins (PCP); Gordon Brand (JV); Margaret Brooke (BPR); Gordon Brown (JD); Gary Downs (SD); Tim Dwyer (GW); Paul Felsing (JSi); LaVonne Foote (DH); Bill Fribley (DH); John Goddard (TJS); Phyllis Harris (B&MPR); Russell Hays (FLM); Ken Hollinga (JV); Lee Hovell (GW); Jim Huber (MMB); Erv Klaas (JD); Cal & Bernie Knight (CJB); Leah Levin (PCP); Larry Linder (PCP); E. M. Martin (JD); Kelley McKay (PCP); Pauly and Richard Mooney (BPR); Erik Nyren (BW); Dan Rankeing (JV); B. J. Rose (TB); Betty Savage (BPR); Roger Sedlacek (JD); W. Ross Silcock (BPa,TB); Kris Tyler (E&ST); Juli Whittaker (JD); David Youngblut (JSi).

### COMMENTS

I would like to thank all 91 Iowa birders who submitted reports. As nearly as I can determine, at least one sighting was reported from 60 of Iowa's 99 counties; I wonder what we missed in the other 39? Some 1200 sightings were entered and processed by computer and the field reports were compiled from the fifty pages of printout. I apologize for any errors or omissions I have made; if you find one, please call it to the attention of the Field Reports Editor so that it can be corrected.

A few comments on reporting your records: they are most informative if they are

complete, including number of individuals (even if estimated), date, and specific location. They are most easily processed if in check-list order, with a single record on each line, and on standard 8 1/2 by 11 paper. When documenting rare species or unusual dates, it is easiest for the editor if each is documented on a separate sheet. I should like to thank those many observers who followed these guidelines.

Coverage of many residents and common migrants was decidedly spotty, particularly for the passerines. I realize that it is often difficult to decide what to include; perhaps these can serve as temporary guidelines: For common migrants, first and last dates observed, as well as the dates and numbers of maximum counts. Uncommon or local residents such as Bell's Vireo and Pileated Woodpecker should be reported. Common and widespread residents such as Black-capped Chickadee and Downy Woodpecker should not be reported unless they are unusually abundant, or unusually scarce, for your area. Interesting behavioral accounts are always welcome.

This is my first, and unfortunately my last, stint as Field Reports Editor. I found it fascinating, and feel that I learned a lot about the birds and birders of Iowa. My thanks go to Carol Newlon and Tom Kent, for help with this report, and to all of the birders of Iowa who helped to make my stay here so pleasant.

Winter season field reports should be sent, by 1 March, to: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor IA 51653.

## GENERAL NOTE



**A Wilson's Phalarope Nest in Allamakee County** — On June 6, 1984, while walking through a large grassy area in the Mississippi River floodplain east of New Albin, I flushed a male Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) from a nest containing four eggs. Upon being flushed the male ran from the nest dragging both wings and its spread tail on the ground in a distraction display, uttering plaintive calls all of the while. The nest was on the ground in a stand of short sedges (*Carex*, sp.) and plattain (*Plantago* sp.).

Anderson (1907) considered the Wilson's Phalarope to be a common nesting species in Hancock and Winnebago Counties and locally common in other areas of northern Iowa prior to 1900. It soon disappeared as a breeding bird however, as DuMont (1933) knew of no recent breeding records. More recently, Dinsmore et al (1984) called the Wilson's Phalarope a casual summer resident.

The only previous records of the Wilson's Phalarope nesting in Iowa during this century are of a nest with four eggs in Clay County on June 2, 1968 and another nest with four eggs in Palo Alto County on June 18, 1968 (Bergman et al. 1968). Also, young phalaropes were reported from Kossuth County in August, 1965 (Peterson 1967).

### Literature Cited

- Anderson, R.M. 1907. The Birds of Iowa. *Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci.* 11:125-417.  
 Bergman, R.D., L.C. Bates, and D.K. Voigts. 1968. Wilson's Phalaropes nesting in northwest Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 38:132-133.  
 Dinsmore, J.J., T.H. Kent, D. Koenig, P.C. Petersen, and D.M. Roosa. 1984. *Iowa Birds*. Iowa State University Press, Ames. 356pp.  
 DuMont, P.A. 1933. A revised list of the birds of Iowa. *Iowa City: University of Iowa Studies in Natural History*, vol. 15, no. 5, 171 pp.  
 Peterson, D. 1967. Summer shorebird migration at Union Slouth National Wildlife Refuge. *Iowa Bird Life* 37:23  
 DARWIN KOENIG, Box 389, MONTEZUMA, Iowa 50171

## Book Reviews

**Guide to Owl Watching in North America** — Donald S. Heintzelman — Winchester Press, Piscataway, N.J. — 144pp., 65 b & w photos — 1984 — paperbound, \$8.95.

Owls are of special interest to many birders since their nocturnal habits make them challenging birds to find. Heintzelman has brought together a nice collection of information concerning owls for the novice and intermediate birder. He describes the owls of North America and suggests methods of observation and equipment needed. The unique opportunity to study the prey choice of a predator, the owl pellet, is covered in some detail. The identification plates are black and white photos with a listing of key field marks and flight style. Much of the book is devoted to a listing of owl watching sites, "rather randomly selected areas if one can judge by Iowa. Reference to the Pettingill or Lane guides would strengthen this section. Overall it is a useful and accurate book. ed.

**The Federal Duck Stamps** — David P. McBride — Winchester Press, Piscataway, N.J. — 206 pp., 140 b & w photoes, 20 line drawings — 1984 — \$34.95.

Most birders are not aware of the big business the federal duck stamps have become. The winner derives considerable income from the sale of prints and old stamps are valuable to philatelists and many others. This book tells the origin of the duck stamp with considerable background on "Ding" Darling, the Iowan who spearheaded the concept. The design context is detailed and all stamps are illustrated as well as their technical background. For the price it would seem color reproductions of the stamps could have been included. This volume pales when compared to the volume **Federal Duck Stamp Story**, a limited edition book published in Davenport in January, 1984. ed.

**The Behavior of Penguins** — D. Muller-Schwarze — S.U.N.Y. Press, Albany — 198 pp., many b & w photos — 1984 — \$29.50 cloth, \$10.95 paper.

The book is divided into two sections. The first covers the general characteristics of the order including adaptations to the polar climate, relations to man, social aspects and their special diving ability. The second part consists of the species accounts. This is very complete for the Adelie Penguin, the most intensively studied, and provides a distillation of many research papers. Although seemingly a remote subject for an Iowa audience these birds are quite unique and very interesting creatures. ed.

**Nest Building and Bird Behavior** — Nicholas E. & Elsie C. Collias — 336 pp., 78 b & w, illus — 1984 — \$45.00 cloth, \$16.50 paper.

For the first time the scattered literature relating to nest-building behavior has been brought together in a single volume. The authors analyze the evolution of nest building in terms of specific selection pressures, competition and sexual selection. They distinguish between inherited and learned behavior in nest building, discuss gregarious nesting and offer a new interpretation of bower evolution. Intended for the advanced student of nesting, it fills a void in the literature of ornithology. ed.

## Correction

In the September 1984 issue, on page 65, the sentence on the tenth line from the bottom of the page should begin:

He had appointed me as an assistant editor and suggested. . .